



Aruba TODAY

On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: 582-7800 Monday, January 17, 2011

Oldest living African-American dies at 113



SHREVEPORT, La. — When she turned 113, Mississippi Winn could still stand up on her own and never thought her age was a detriment to her life. The upbeat former domestic worker from Shreveport, known in the city as "Sweetie," died Friday afternoon at Magnolia Manor Nursing Home, said Milton Carroll, an investigator with the Caddo Parish Coroner's Office. He said he could not release her cause of death.

Continued on Page A3

MORE TUNISIA UNREST

Gunbattle at presidential palace

A banner of former Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali is torn in the center of Tunis, Sunday, Jan. 16, 2011. Tunisia sped toward a new future after its iron-fisted leader fled, with an interim president sworn in and ordering the country's first multiparty government to be formed.

Associated Press
PAGE A13

Flooding, avalanches threaten Pacific Northwest



WASHINGTON — The Pacific Northwest will continue to be hit with heavy rains and snow on Sunday, raising the threat of flooding and avalanches until Monday, according to weather.com and Accuweather.

A warm, wet front coming from the Pacific will contribute to flooding in Washington state and southern Oregon that has led the National Weather service to post advisories

across several counties. Rainfall in the area is expected to total between 1 to 3 inches.

The temperature is expected to be slightly than average over the next few days, forecasters said.

In the Rockies snow will continue to fall through the early days of this week. Conditions could lead to avalanches on the western face of the Cascades. □

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With shock subsiding, pain sets in for AZ victims



By JULIE WATSON
 ALICIA CHANG,
 Associated Press

TUCSON, Ariz. — The harrowing first week is over. Now, as the national focus drifts away and a quietness returns to this laid-back college city, the profound pain is settling in as victims of last weekend's shooting spree — and their tight-knit community — enter the toughest part of their healing process.

There are the parents who lost their 9-year-old daughter. A wife who will live with the haunting memory of her husband's dying moments, filled with her loving whispers after he used his body to shield her from the bullets. A 20-year-old intern for U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords stamped with the mental

images of holding her to his chest and trying to stop the bleeding after a bullet passed through her head. And then there's the city of Tucson, a picturesque desert community of sun-bronzed university students, retirees and artists that prides itself on being open-minded now linked to a heinous crime.

"I happened to get hit by bullets and all of you, especially those who were there, you got wounded too," said Giffords' aide Pam Simon, 63, who was shot twice, as she met with survivors, witnesses and community members.

The months to come will determine the lasting impact of those wounds, not only for the residents of Tucson but the country itself, which has spent a week reflecting on whether a

divisive political atmosphere, angry rhetoric or loose gun laws might have intersected with a dangerously mentally ill young man in Tucson.

And what of suspected gunman Jared Loughner's parents, who have remained secluded in their modest home, issuing only a brief statement expressing sorrow? Questions as to why he fired on the crowd that Jan. 8 morning may never be fully answered.

"This was a combat situation that hit people not prepared for combat," said Dr. Paul Ragan, a Vanderbilt University expert on gunshot victims. "There really is this profound assault on one's own sense of certainty in life and safety."

Survivors have found a sense of peace from the community's overwhelming support, rolling their wheelchairs past the cards, candles, and flowers blanketing the hospital lawn. They also are consoled by the moments of human goodness — the heroic feat of the men who tackled the gunman, the woman who grabbed his empty magazine and the strangers who scampered under the hail of gunfire to help the wounded.

Most uplifting has been the remarkable recovery so far

of Giffords, who opened her eyes, grabbed her husband's arm and appeared to try to hug him Wednesday night after President Barack Obama visited her hospital room.

Many of the 13 victims have undergone multiple surgeries and face months, possibly years, of physical therapy.

Survivors recognize the body often heals more quickly than the mind. "The wounds in our heart are a lot, lot deeper," Simon said. "They aren't going to heal in a long time."

Jenny Douglas, the daughter of Giffords' aide Ron Barber, 65, who was shot three times, said her father "remembers it all, very clearly."

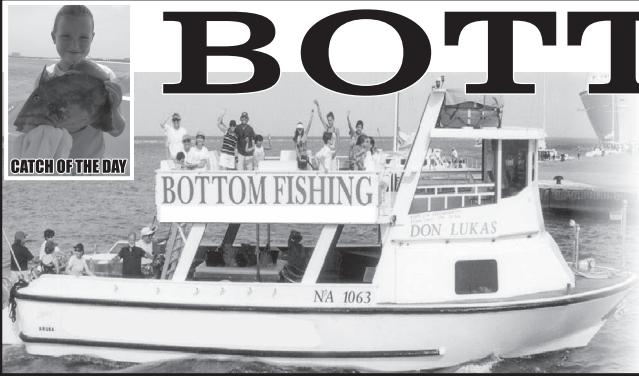
Mavy Stoddard, 75, who was shot in the leg three times, also remembers. Her husband, Dorwin, 76, dove to the ground and covered her when the shooting started. She talked to him for 10 minutes, while he breathed heavily after being shot in the head. Then his breathing stopped.

The two grade school sweethearts had lost contact and then found each other again after both retired in Tucson, falling in love. Steve Siegel, of the Denver District Attorney's office, has seen the long-term fallout after helping people in the aftermath of the

country's most horrific crimes — from the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing to the 2007 Virginia Tech shootings. Some have been unable to function, losing jobs, turning to alcohol and drugs, even attempting suicide. Every time a tragedy occurs somewhere it can trigger their traumatic feelings — an actual chemical response in their bodies.

Trauma, he says, acts like a stone dropped in water, rippling out far beyond the crime scene: Within 48 hours of the Columbine massacre, all youth beds at mental health facilities across Colorado were filled. Many were teens shaken by the news clips of the chaos. More than two years later, some 600 people were still seeking help to cope, said Bill Woodward of the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Doctors say some of the victims could experience a near-constant mental replaying of the attack outside the Safeway grocery store that left six dead. They may develop irrational fears, worrying obsessively that Loughner could escape and harm them again. A few might find they can't even drive past any Safeway. □



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Doctors open breathing hole in Giffords' throat

TUCSON, Arizona - Doctors performed a tracheotomy on Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords on Saturday, inserting a breathing tube through a hole in her neck and removing her from a ventilator, hospital officials said.

It was the first time Giffords was removed from the ventilator since last Saturday, when she arrived at University Medical Center after a gunman shot her through the head.

Giffords, 40, remains the only patient in critical condition from the shooting that wounded 12 others. Six more

victims were killed in the rampage.

One patient was discharged on Saturday, and two remain hospitalized in good condition. In the tracheotomy performed on Saturday, doctors replaced a breathing tube running down Giffords' throat with the tube inserted through a hole in her neck, the hospital said in a written statement.

A feeding tube also was inserted into Giffords, a practice not uncommon for patients in intensive care with brain injuries, the hospital said. Doctors have expressed

satisfaction with Giffords' recovery from the bullet wound. In recent days the congresswoman has opened her eyes and is tracking movement of objects before her, and following simple commands, such as raising fingers and wiggling toes.

Giffords, a Democrat representing Tucson and southern Arizona, was just elected to her third term in the U.S. House of Representatives. Jared Lee Loughner, a 22 year old college dropout, is charged as the lone gunman in the rampage. □

OLDEST LIVING AFRICAN AMERICAN DIES AT 113

Continued from Front Page

Winn was believed to be the oldest living African American in the U.S. and the seventh oldest living person in the world, said Robert Young of the Gerontology Research Group, which verifies information for Guinness World Records.

Young said Winn was one of two known people left in the United States whose parents both were almost certainly born into slavery because documents show they were born before the end of the Civil War, though her great niece Mary C. Hollins says Winn never acknowledged that. "I don't know much about that," Hollins recalled Winn saying when asked about her parents' early years.

Young visited Winn in July 2010 and remembered her being much more fit than others her age.

"When I asked her how old she was, she knew she was 113 but she thought she was young," he said. "She always thought there would be a next year. Unfortunately that didn't happen. That was just the thing she had a very positive attitude."

With Winn's death, Young's Los Angeles based gerontology group has verified Mamie Rearden, 112, of Edgefield, S.C., as the current oldest known living African-American in the U.S. He said Eunice Sanborn, 114, of Jacksonville, Texas, is the world's oldest known living person.

Hollins said Friday evening that Winn was in good health and mentally sharp until recently.

She described her great-aunt as "a strong willed person, a disciplinarian" who believed that elders should be respected.

"She was living on her own until she was 103," Hollins said, cooking for herself and taking walks. "She just believed she could handle anything."

Winn, who never married, was a caretaker of children and a cook. She lived nearly her entire life in Louisiana, though she resided in Seattle, Wash. from 1957 to 1975, Hollins said. She had been a member of Shreveport's Avenue Baptist Church since 1927 and used to say, "I am gonna stay here as long as he wants me to stay here."

"One of the reasons for her longevity was that she just kind of took things as they'd come, everyday life and living. She didn't let nothing upset her and get all hyped up by some of the things as we do," Hollins said.

Carroll said Winn was well known in Shreveport. Last spring, the mayor declared "Miss Mississippi Winn Day" on March 31 when she turned 113.

"She was just a vibrant lady," he said. "Once you came in contact with her, you were impacted."

According to a biography released by the city, Winn was one of eight children, including a sister who died in 2000 at age 100.

"Her father named her Mississippi but her mother always called her Sweetie," the bio said. "Her favorite hobby is sewing and favorite book is the Bible."

Her favorite quote from the Bible: "Be ye kind one to another." □


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Teresa Scanlan of Nebraska crowned Miss America



LAS VEGAS, Nevada - Nebraska's 17 year old Teresa Scanlan was named Miss America Saturday becoming the youngest winner ever in the pageant's history after a night of being judged for poise, talent, fitness and knowledge.

Scanlan wowed the judges wearing a stunning white evening gown and tickling the ivories on piano with rousing rendition of "White Water Chopped Sticks" in the talent competition.

In the final question, she was asked about the leaking of confidential government information by website WikiLeaks and whether U.S.

security or the people's right to know sensitive information was more important.

Scanlan saw the leaks as a matter of espionage and said: "When it comes to the security of our nation, we have to focus on security first and then people's right to know. We can't let things like that happen, and they must be handled properly, and I think that was the case."

The first runner up, who will take Miss America's place in the case Scanlan can't perform her new role, was Miss Arkansas Alyse Eady.

Among other noteworthy contestants was Miss Delaware, Kayla Martell, who

made it into the semifinals. Martell suffers from a disease, alopecia areata, that caused her to lose all her hair at age 10, and she competed in a wig. This year marked the 90th pageant in the history of Miss America. The organization runs achievement programs and is a major provider of scholarship assistance for young women. In 2010, the group and its state and local affiliates helped give out more than \$45 million in cash and scholarship assistance.

FROM 53 TO 1

Fifty-three women were chosen from states and territories across the country in local contests before they headed to Las Vegas and the final pageant Saturday.

As Miss America, Scanlan will take the next year to travel the United States and raise awareness about eating

disorders.

Miss America 2010, Caressa Cameron from Virginia, 22, was a goodwill ambassador for the Children's Miracle Network, and she spent the year helping raise awareness for HIV/AIDS.

In the week ahead of Saturday's competition, contestants were judged in preliminary events for evening wear, fitness and swimsuits and answer questions in an interview.

From those events, 11 semifinalists were chosen to compete Saturday night.

Joining them were four other contestants two picked by online voting and two others by the remaining young women in the pageant.

The 15 semifinalists were narrowed Saturday in contests that again include evening wear, fitness and swimsuits, talent and a final on-stage

question for the top five women. Then, the top five were ranked to get to the new Miss America.

This year, seven panelists judged contestants in the final round as they answered their question in 20 seconds. The judges including TV talk show co host Joy Behar, "Dancing With the Stars" professional dancer Tony Dovolani, and "Desperate Housewives" creator Marc Cherry, among others watched for confidence, knowledge and quick thinking in formulating an answer.

Joining Miss Nebraska and Arkansas among the five finalists were women from Hawaii, Washington and Oklahoma. The show included a rousing opening musical number by all 53 contestants, and it was hosted by TV personalities Brooke Burke and Chris Harrison. □

Utah city may use blimp as anti crime spy in the sky



SALT LAKE CITY, Utah - A proposed unmanned floating airship surveillance system is being hailed by city officials in Ogden, Utah as one way to fight crime in its neighborhoods.

"We believe it will be a deterrent to crime when it is out and about and will help us solve crimes more quickly when they do occur," Ogden City Mayor Matthew Godfrey told Reuters.

The airship entails military technology now available to local law enforcement, he said.

Godfrey floated the idea of a dirigible in the skies above Ogden for his city council members last week. The council is expected to vote on the measure in coming weeks. He says the cost of the blimp is being negotiated but said it is more "cost effective" to

operate than helicopters or fixed winged aircraft.

"We anticipate using it mainly at night. The cameras have incredible night vision to see with tremendous clarity daytime and nighttime. It will be used like a patrol car. It will be used to go and check things out and keep things safe," said Godfrey.

One person will be able to operate the system but Godfrey says it will also function on its own with programming directives.

The blimp is 52 feet long, will be outfitted with two cameras, and is capable of flying up to 40 miles per hour at 400 feet above the city.

Officials say the cigar-shaped blimp, powered by electric batteries, can fly for four to six hours before needing to be recharged.

"Once you understand the

capability of the technology as well, not only the cameras but the ability to relay that data from the camera down to ground it's amazing," said Godfrey.

The blimp is long but narrow and moves quickly and quietly, meaning it should be fairly undetectable, he said.

The blimp is being developed by the Utah Center for Aeronautical Innovation and Design at Weber State University. Researchers say the blimp is a helium filled balloon with a special coating of fabric developed at their center. "The very lightweight fabric was developed in partnership with the Utah State Legislature who gave us a grant. The air envelope would leak the helium it would penetrate through so it had to be coated," said Bradley Stringer, research team executive director.

Ogden will be the first metropolitan police force to employ this technology, Stringer said.

The blimp has almost no operational costs and minimal maintenance expenses, he said. Ogden city officials say it will cost about \$100 a month to operate but would not comment specifically on the cost of the blimp. □

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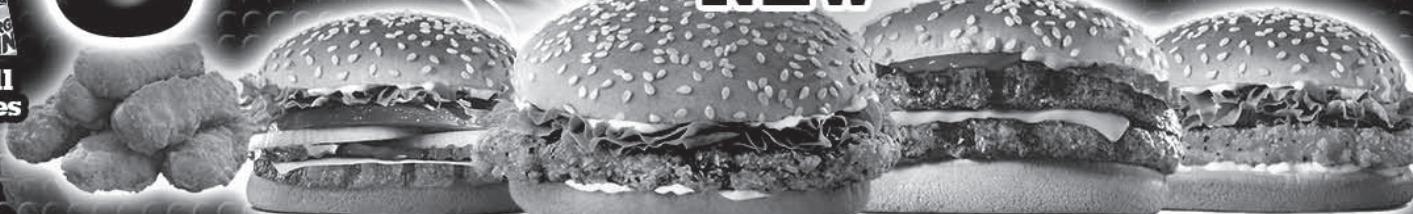
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AP-GfK Poll: Opposition to health care law eases

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR
JENNIFER AGIESTA,
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — As lawmakers shaken by the shooting of a colleague return to the health care debate, an Associated Press-GfK poll finds raw feelings over President Barack Obama's overhaul have subsided.

Ahead of a vote on repeal in the GOP-led House this week, strong opposition to the law stands at 30 percent, close to the lowest level registered in AP-GfK surveys dating to September 2009.

The nation is divided over the law, but the strength and intensity of the opposition appear diminished. The law expands coverage to more than 30 million uninsured, and would require, for the first time, that most people in the United States carry health insurance.

The poll finds that 40 percent of those surveyed said they support the law, while 41 percent oppose it. Just after the November congressional elections, opposition stood at 47 percent and support was 38 percent.

As for repeal, only about one in four say they want to do away with the law completely.

Among Republicans support for repeal has dropped sharply, from 61 percent after the elections to 49 percent now. Also, 43 percent say they want the law changed so it does more to re-engineer the health care system. Fewer than one in five say it should be left as it is.

"Overall, it didn't go as far as I would have liked," said Joshua Smith, 46, a sales consultant to manufacturers who lives in Herndon, Va. "In a perfect world, I'd like to see them change it to make it more encompassing, but judging by how hard it was to get it passed, they had to take whatever they could get."

His extended family has benefited from the law. A sister-in-law in her early 20s, previously uninsured, was able to get on her father's policy. "She's starting out as a real estate agent, and there's no health care for that," said Smith. The law allows young adults to stay on a parent's plan until they turn 26.

Congress stepped back last week to honor victims of the rampage in Tucson, Ariz., that left Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, D-Ariz., facing a long and uncertain recovery from a bullet through her brain.

There's no evidence the

gunman who targeted Giffords was motivated by politics, but the aftermath left many people concerned about the venom in public life. A conservative Democrat, Giffords had been harshly criticized for voting in favor of the health overhaul, and won re-election by a narrow margin.

House Republican leaders say they're working to keep this week's debate — and expected vote Wednesday — from degenerating into a shouting match, but it depends on the Democrats, too. Republicans want a thoughtful discussion about substantive policy differences, said Brad Dayspring, a spokesman for Rep. Eric Cantor, the No. 2 GOP leader. The AP-GfK poll was under way when the attack in Tucson took place Jan. 8.

Opposition to the law remains strongest among Republicans. Seventy-one percent of them say they're against it, as compared with 35 percent of independents and 19 percent of Democrats. Republicans won back control of the House partly on a promise to repeal what they dismissively term as "Obamacare."

"I just think that the liberal left is more going for socialized medicine, and I don't think



that works well," said Earl Ray Fye, 66, a farmer from

Pennsylvania

Furnace, Pa., and a conservative Republican. "It just costs too much. This country better get concerned about getting more conservative."

One of the major Republican criticisms of the law found wide acceptance in the poll, suggesting a vulnerability that

GOP politicians can continue to press.

Nearly six in 10 oppose the law's requirement that people carry health insurance except in cases of financial hardship. Starting in 2014, people will have to show that they're covered either through an employer, a government program, or under their own plan. □

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Michigan father kills wife, sons 4 and 6, self

DETROIT - A Michigan man was believed to have killed his wife and two young sons before committing suicide, police said on Saturday.

Mark Schons, 39, was found dead in his sports utility vehicle in a parking lot on Friday, two hours after police discovered the bodies of his wife and children in their home, authorities said.

Police went to the house in Novi, Michigan after a friend of the family notified authorities that the two children, Tynan, 6, and Camden, 4, did not show up for school and their mother, Jennifer Schons, 38, had missed an appointment.

Jennifer Schons had suffered multiple "sharp force injuries" and the boys had been asphyxiated with neck compressions, suggesting they were strangled, William Presley, Oakland County Medical Examiner's Office investigator, said on Saturday.

Police found Mark Schons, considered a suspect in his family's deaths, dead in his vehicle. The cause was carbon monoxide poisoning, Presley said.

Police in Novi, about 25 miles northwest of Detroit, called it an apparent homicide/suicide.

Family members and friends told police the couple was considering divorce. The couple had filed for bankruptcy December 23, and had run up more than \$200,000 in debt in recent years, mostly from credit cards, according to federal court records. A meeting with creditors was scheduled for next Wednesday. □



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Convicted Amish killer commits suicide, police say



ERIE, Pa—Nearly two decades after Amish man Edward Gingerich outraged his normally peaceful religious community by killing his wife, he has been found dead of an apparent suicide.

Gingerich, 44, hung himself in a barn on Friday in Cambridge Springs, Pennsylvania, police said.

He had been living at the property with his attorney, George Schroeck, for the past six months.

Schroeck told Reuters that his wife, Stephanie, discovered Gingerich's body, along with a message written in dust on top of a bucket that read, "Forgive me please."

Gingerich became the first Amish person found guilty of homicide, when he

was convicted in 1994 of involuntarily manslaughter for killing his wife, Katie, said Jim Fisher, who covered Gingerich's story in his book "Crimson Stain."

A jury found him guilty of involuntary manslaughter, but mentally ill, for the 1993 killing in the couple's home in Rockdale Township, Pennsylvania, where he crushed his wife's skull and used a kitchen knife to remove her stomach organs from her dead body.

"I always thought, and made the point in the book, that he would have been better off and society would have been better off, if he would have been found not guilty by reason of insanity rather than manslaughter," Fisher told

Reuters.

In that case, Gingerich who was diagnosed with schizophrenia would have been placed in a mental institution and received more treatment than he ended up getting upon his release from prison, said Fisher, a former professor at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania.

"I don't feel good about the man who is in so much despair that he takes his own life by hanging," Fisher said. "That is a depressing end to a sad and depressing story."

Gingerich, after serving his maximum sentence of four years in prison for the killing, moved to a mental institution in Michigan before going to Indiana and eventually returning to Pennsylvania and the Brown Hill Amish community in 2007.

Gingerich had been on antidepressant medications, but Schroeck said that he had apparently stopped using them, Schroeck said. The attorney said he took Gingerich to see a nurse this week, and that Gingerich told him then that he was taking his medication.

"He was very depressed. I didn't realize how depressed he was, but when you take your own life, you can figure he was pretty depressed," said Schroeck, who was his attorney for the 1994 manslaughter case. □

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LOCAL Aruba TODAY



Award Luncheon at Bluegreen celebrates top achievers

EAGLE BEACH — In line with tradition, Julian Chance, Director of Sales for Bluegreen Properties NV, at La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club personally emceed the company's quarterly award ceremony congratulating his top achievers on their outstanding sales efforts for the 3rd quarter of 2010.

Sales Executive Rubert Paesch landed a number of distinctions, rewarding his performance in the past quarter.

Rubert won Sales Executive for the 3rd quarter by virtue of winning four previous awards such as Sales Executive for the months of August, front line, Sales Executive for September both front line and in-house, and Sales executive for November, front line.

Chance praised Rubert's extraordinary performance, as he almost missed the award ceremony, being busy on the sales floor with another timeshare tour and consequent sale.

Antonio Arrindell also earned a great number of distinctions in the 3rd quarter being named Sales Manager for the Month of July, front line and for September and October in-house which earned him the Sales Manager of the 3rd quarter title. Ever-diligent Solange Kuiper was named Sales Manager for the Month of July.

Continued on Next Page



Palm Beach — Representatives of Imeldahof the Children's Home in Noord, and the administrator of Telefon pa Hubentud, a volunteer helpline for kids, were pleased to receive another donation from Salamander Holdings NV. Two more donation checks were delivered to Fundacion Hende Muhe den Dificultad, providing counseling and support to women in abusive relationships and to the Edmund Harms Foundation, which supports the terminally ill with hospice services. All funds were collected by Salamander Holdings NV, in collaboration with their clients.



To date, Salamander Holdings NV had given considerable amounts to the Edmund E. Harms Hospice Foundation, to Fundacion pa Hende Muhe den Dificultad, to Fundacion Pa Nos Grandinan, and Club Kibrahacha, to Imeldahof children's home, to Koningin Wilhelmina Kanker Fonds, and to Telefon Pa Hubentud Aruba.

Salamander Holdings NV owns and operates the Juggling Fish, T.H. Palm & Company, the Coconut Trading Company and the Lazy Lizard, fun stores located in the hotel areas.

In the fall of 2007, Managing Director Jodi Tobman announced an on-going fund-raising initiative called Tikkun Olam, the repair of the world, named after an ancient Hebrew philosophical-belief that the repair of the world is possible by mean of charity. Tikkun Olam came through at T.H. Palm & Company in March 2008, when the first donations were given to a select group of local not-for-profit organizations.

Eighteen months later in November of 2009, with the opening of the Coconut



Trading Company at the Village Mall the first donation was given to the just-formed Fundacion Pa Nos Comunidad. Clients who shop at both T.H. Palm & Company, Playa Linda Beach Resort, and at the Coconut Trading Company at the Village Mall help direct a percentage of their purchases to their favorite local foundation, in the form of bi-annual donations.

The Tikkun Olam Menu is



Award Luncheon at Bluegreen celebrates top achievers



Continued from Previous Page

Hard working John Samson was decorated with three

awards as he collected the Sales Manager for the Month, front line and in-



house for August, and front line for September.

Roland Hoek received the Sales Executive Award for the Month of July, while Johan Arends won the same award for July in-house and for October front line; Guido Arends outshone all others in August, in-house while Albert Groeneveldt earned Sales Executive for the Month of November, in-house. Rudy Richardson was feted for his Sales Manager for the month of October achievement. In-house coordinator for July, Aug, September was won

by Jacqueline Marlin which earned her the quarterly award as well. Lorencia Ras plucked the Support Staff award for the 3rd quarter, with Support Manager for the 3rd quarter Godfrey Halley. In his address Chance praised his team for its outstanding energy reiterating his deep sense of satisfaction over the group's synergy. Chance concluded the session thanking Accounting, Human Resources, Marketing, the Gift Room & Sales for their steadfast collaboration, before opening the buffet line, served over cocktails and live music, in the conference room at the resort.

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Stimulating our country's Economy

The Minister of Economic Affairs, Social Affairs and Culture announces important changes to various business permit tariffs, effective as per January 1, 2011:

- The tariff to submit a permit request regarding "Landsverordening Winkelsluiting", extension of business operating hours, is now FREE! In keeping with regulations, the business must submit the necessary form, including an Afl 8 stamp, once per year to the Department of Economic Affairs.
- Tariffs pertaining to various permit requests for "Vestigings Bedrijven", including Business Operating License, have been reduced, as indicated in the chart below.

New tariffs, as of January 1, 2011

Type of permit	Tariff, until Dec 31, 2010	New tariff, as of Jan 1, 2011
To establish and manage a company in the categories: Corporation (N.V.), Limited Liability Company (V.B.A.), Aruba Exempt Corporation (A.E.C.) or "Corporations domiciled outside of Aruba"	Afl. 2.000,-	Afl. 400,-
To act as the director of a Corporation (N.V.), Limited Liability Company (V.B.A.), Aruba Exempt Corporation (A.E.C.) or "Corporations domiciled outside of Aruba"	Afl. 600,-	Afl. 400,-
Business relocation	Afl. 200,-	Afl. 25,-
Establishment of a branch, area office or a subdivision of another company already established on Aruba, whether it is a Corporation (N.V.), Limited Liability Company (V.B.A.), Aruba Exempt Corporation (A.E.C.) or "Corporations domiciled outside of Aruba"	Afl. 300,-	Afl. 25,-
To make changes in an existing permit (e.g. changes in the nature of the business)	Afl. 200,-	Afl. 25,-

The Minister of Economic Affairs, Social Affairs and Culture
Michelle J. Hooyboer-Winklaar

Heidi Michiels named General Manager

L.G. Smith's Steak & Chop House names new GM



ORANJESTAD - L.G. Smith's Steak & Chop House recently announced the appointment of Heidi Michiels to the position of the restaurant's General Manager.

Originally from Belgium, Heidi has been living and

working on Aruba for the past 10 years. She developed her culinary expertise while contributing her talents to various prestigious local eateries, such as the now defunct, but much-appreciated, Le Dome, and the

popular Fishes & More where she spent seven exciting and satisfying years, the last ones as the restaurant's manager. On her quest for personal career development she recently moved on to manage L.G. Smith's, a restaurant which brings mouthwatering American Steakhouse fare and an extensive international wine list to the heart of Oranjestad.

Heidi's first night at L.G. Smith's at the beginning of December 2010, heralded the start of the high season and she was plunged, body & soul, into the rush of holiday parties and special events.

"It was my baptism in fire," she banters, but as a practiced food and beverage executive she skillfully guided her professional staff of fifteen through peak times and was rewarded with highly satisfied guests and very complimentary

comment cards. Born into a family of food experts, Heidi practically grew up on a restaurant floor helping her parents direct a lunch and dinner establishment in Brugge, Belgium. She later went on to her town's hotel and tourism school. She travelled extensively upon graduation checking Europe and the Far East out, then visiting NY and falling in love with the city. As the General Manager of L.G. Smith's her plan is to teach her staff everything she knows and continue to nurture the restaurant's culinary excellence and high standards of service, combined with guest interaction.

L.G. Smith's offers juicy cuts of aged, USDA-inspected Certified Angus Beef, reasonably priced and sizzling hot from the grill paired with exquisitely prepared appetizers from both land and

sea and tantalizing desserts including the Signature Mascarpone Tart.

The menu says Heidi, is compiled of everyone's favorites and L.G. Smith's return business is significant, as patrons come back several nights in a row, especially for the Sumptuous Sundowner, a complete 3 course meal for two.

L.G. Smith's is blessed with sweeping views of the downtown marina and the bustling boulevard below, and enjoys a rich dark wood décor with natural stone and Murano glass, lending contemporary flair to superb dining.

Open nightly for dinner from 5:30pm to 11pm, while the Midnight Grill Lounge operates from 11pm to 6am. L.G. Smith's Steak and Chop House is located right downtown next to the Crystal Casino. □

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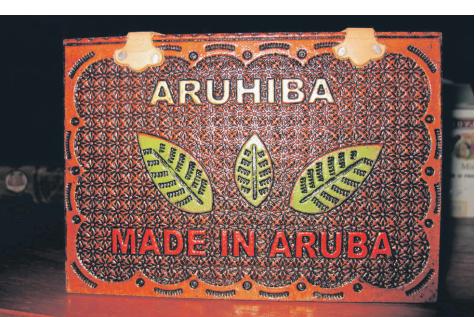
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ORANJESTAD - Benjamin Petrocchi started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi has always

had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The process took ten years. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar box is specially designed for the cigars with the logo "Aruhiba". Petrocchi considers Aruhiba a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars. The company sells International cigars as well. Buy a gift box of Aruhiba Corona with five

cigars and you will get 1 FREE cigar of \$35. Located at the Historic Dutch Windmill. Open from Monday to Saturday from 9am till 8:30pm. And open on Sunday from 9am to 1pm. At the Tamarijn Hotel open on Monday till Saturday 12pm to 8pm. And on Sunday from 9am to 1pm.

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Aruba 2010

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28 juni 2010

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Guilty and Sentenced, Tom DeLay's Texas Legacy Grows

It has been a seven year fall from power for former Congressman Tom DeLay "the Hammer" as he was also known when he was one of the most powerful political personages in Washington - a legal odyssey that entered its latest phase when he was sentenced to three years in prison earlier this week. But when or whether the former House Republican Majority Leader will see prison time is up to a Texas criminal justice system that is, paradoxically, both pro-prosecution and heavily populated by Republican judges. The prosecution had asked for a 10 year sentence that would have ensured DeLay would have to report to prison while his appeals went forward. But District Judge Pat Priest, appointed to the case by Republican Texas Supreme Court Justice Wallace Jefferson, handed down a three year sentence for conspiring to commit money laundering and 10 years probation on a money laundering charge, a punishment that left DeLay shaken, and his wife and daughter in tears. (See the top 10 performing politicians.)

Still, some courthouse watchers expressed surprise that DeLay was handed prison time. They noted that in several recent political corruption cases the offenders simply received probation, including Democratic State Rep. Kino Flores, also on trial in November in a courtroom down the hall from the DeLay trial. Flores was found guilty of accepting kickbacks and was given probation by the same judge originally assigned to the DeLay case (a judge who was replaced after defense attorney Dick DeGuerin complained about his strong Democratic Party ties). Nevertheless, DeLay already has an indication from pre-trial appellate activity that he may have a shot at overturning the sentence, an outcome that is denied in 95% of criminal cases in the Texas appellate system, according to George Dix, a professor of criminal law at the University of Texas. Though he was taken into immediate custody by sheriff's deputies after the sentence was read, he was quickly released from county jail on a \$10,000 appeal bond.

But even as he has fallen farther and farther, DeLay's vision for the Texas Republican Party continues to be fulfilled the very ambitions that lie at the heart of his woes. Republicans continue to gain power at the statehouse and dominate the numbers in the state's congressional delegation. It was DeLay's aggressive fundraising for both state and federal political action committees in 2002 that boosted a Republican surge and opened the door to a mid-decade redrawing of the state's congressional map by the newly elected GOP-dominated state legislature. But it also prompted the criminal indictment charging DeLay with money laundering for shifting corporate donations, prohibited by the Texas state constitution, from a federal PAC to a state campaign fund. □

TWAIN'S MASTERPIECE DESERVES TO BE LEFT ALONE



WASHINGTON A Montgomery, Ala., college professor has a simple idea that he believes will make his beloved Mark Twain more popular. Simple, but wrong. Working with a publisher to bring out a new edition of the well-known classics, Twain scholar Alan Gribben has expunged a handful of offensive words so that more students or so he believes will read about Huck Finn and Tom Sawyer. He has edited out "Injun," "half breed" and, of course, the inflammatory epithet "nigger."

Gribben's tamer Twain may well become popular. Every year, schools field complaints from parents who don't want their kids reading Twain's best known novels because his characters use the N word. (Never mind that many of those students embrace a popular culture steeped in epithet spewing gangsta rap.) In classrooms across the country, teachers have given up introducing their charges to "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" because of the controversy.

Still, with all due respect to Gribben's intentions, his Bowdlerized Huck Finn would hardly be worth reading. Twain is widely considered an American master and "Huckleberry Finn" his masterwork. You don't change his words any more than you chisel a loincloth over Michelangelo's David.

"Of course it's an offensive word," famed novelist Harper Lee noted over the phone. "But 'Huckleberry Finn' is

one of the great classics of the English language." Lee's enduring novel "To Kill a Mockingbird" has suffered similar criticisms for its crimes against modern day sensibilities.

"Adventures of Huckleberry Finn," set along the Mississippi River in the 1840s, is an exploration of the morality of slavery, cleverly disguised as an adventure novel. One of its many lessons is this: The characters, like the human beings they reflect, grow emotionally and spiritually as they are forced to wrestle with moral quandaries. Huck is not defined by his use of a pejorative.

His frequent use of the word, however, is quite in keeping with his time and place. Huck is a bright but semi literate boy who surely would have used the epithet without any sense of shame, as his contemporaries did. Why give students a false understanding of history? Aren't Americans ignorant enough of their nation's complex roots?

Twain "used this word for a purpose, and why is it being changed?" asked Harvard law professor Randall Kennedy, author of "Nigger: The Strange Career of a Troublesome Word." "It's being changed because people are uncomfortable."

"Slavery is a very painful subject," he continued in a telephone interview. "I think it's a bad thing for students to grapple with the history of American slavery and discrimination and lynchings

after they've been given a dose of Novocain. Those subjects (should) cause some embarrassment, some discomfort, even some tears. It's tough stuff."

One of the odder things about that "troublesome" word is how quickly it can become the focus of debate, drowning out all consideration of context. Though the nation has difficulty discussing racism, we've arrived at an ad hoc understanding that any white person who uses the N word has rendered himself part of an extremist fringe.

Yet American history is full of Huck Finns, moved to acts of simple kindness and decency in opposition to the racial norms of their day despite their fondness for a crude epithet. In contrast, as Kennedy notes in "Strange Career," history is also full of gentlemanly racists who would never have uttered the term.

"Partly to distance themselves from (lower-class whites), some whites of higher standing have aggressively forsaken the use of 'nigger.' Such was the case, for example, with senators Strom Thurmond and Richard Russell, both white supremacists who never used the N word," Kennedy wrote.

At the very foundation of any decent education is the push to teach students to think. It may not be the easiest assignment, but any responsible classroom teacher will surely try. And part of that experience will be exposing students to ideas that are challenging, uncomfortable, outside the norm. It's hard to imagine they can grasp history or literature otherwise.

Gribben's errant red pen cannot damage Twain. His genius will live on in countless copies of the original text. But the students exposed to Gribben's lesser Twain will be cheated of the discomfort that is among art's greatest virtues. □

Gunbattles, food shortages temper Tunisians' joy

BOUAZZA BEN BOUAZZA

ELAINE GANLEY

Associated Press

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP) — Major gunbattles erupted outside the palace of Tunisia's deposed president, in the center of the capital, in front of the main opposition party headquarters and elsewhere on Sunday as authorities struggled to restore order and the world waited to see if the North African nation would continue its first steps away from autocratic rule.

Police arrested dozens of people, including the top presidential security chief, as tensions appeared to mount between Tunisians buoyant over Zine El Abidine Ben Ali's departure and loyalists in danger of losing major perks. There were cheers and smiles in much of Tunis, the capital, as residents tore down the massive portraits of Ben Ali, some of them several stories high, that hung from lampposts and billboards and were omnipresent during his 23-year reign.

Prime Minister Mohamed Ghannouchi said on state TV that a new national unity government will "most certainly" be announced Monday "to open a new page in the history of Tunisia." There are three legal opposition parties that could be included in the government. Ghannouchi has been directed to form by the interim president, Fouad Mebazaa. Negotiations are advanced, Ghannouchi said Sunday.

night.

Worries among Tunisians, however, grew with the violence and worsening shortages of essentials such as milk, bread and fresh fish.

"We're starting to feel it now," said Imed Jaound at the Tunis port, which has been closed since Friday, when Ben Ali fled to Saudi Arabia.

A gunbattle broke out around the presidential palace late Sunday afternoon in Carthage on the Mediterranean shore, about 15 kilometers (10 miles) north of Tunis. The army and members of the newly appointed presidential guard fought off attacks from militias loyal to Ben Ali, said a member of the new presidential guard. Helicopters were surveying the zone.

The militias emerged from a forest to charge, the guard member said by telephone. He told The Associated Press the militia are "numerous" and are using various kinds of arms but gave no further details. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to be publicly named.

Residents of Carthage — a center of power in ancient times but now a Tunis suburb popular with tourists — said they have barricaded themselves inside their homes amid the shooting. Many soldiers were in the palace, but it was unclear whether any of the interim government's leaders were.

One Carthage resident said she

saw four men in a taxi speed through a military checkpoint at the end of her street and toward the palace nearby. Soldiers shot at the taxi and the men inside returned fire. The resident, who asked not to be named because of security concerns, said her neighbors saw other armed men break through checkpoints in civilian cars. The gunbattle lasted about four hours before calm returned in the evening, she said.

Other gunfights broke out near the PDP opposition party headquarters and a two-hour-long gunbattle raged behind the Interior Ministry, long feared during Ben Ali's reign as a torture site. Residents of the city center heard constant volleys of gunfire throughout much of the afternoon; they were ordered to stay away from windows and keep their curtains closed.

The prime minister said Sunday night that police and the army have arrested numerous members of armed groups, without saying how many.

"The coming days will show who is behind them," Ghannouchi said. He added that arms and documents have been seized from those arrested.

"We won't be tolerant towards these people," the prime minister said.

The security chief, Ali Seriati, and his deputy were charged with a plot against state security, aggressive acts



Women applaud as they look at a torn banner depicting former Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali in the center of Tunis, Sunday, Jan. 16, 2011. Tunisia sped toward a new future after its iron-fisted leader fled, with an interim president sworn in and ordering the country's first multiparty government to be formed.

Associated Press

and for "provoking disorder, murder and pillaging," the TAP state news agency reported.

Police stopped vehicles as the city remained under a state of emergency. More than 50 people were arrested on suspicion of using ambulances, rental cars and government vehicles for random shootings, a police official told The Associated Press. A crowd of 200 in Tunis cheered one such arrest Sunday. Before the gunbattle

at the opposition party headquarters, police arrested a group of nine Swedish boar hunters traveling in taxis toward a nearby hotel after their flight home was canceled, one of the Swedes, Ove Oberg, said. Police roughed the men up and accused them of being terrorists, Oberg said, recounting his ordeal before a group of journalists.

"When they saw this gun, they went crazy," he said, referring to a hunting rifle in the trunk of the taxi. □

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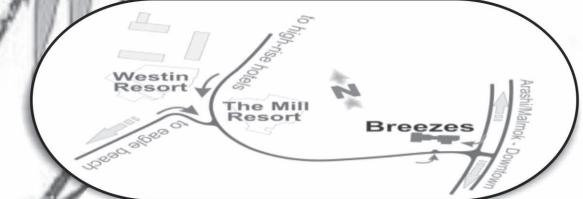
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First U.S. ambassador in 5 years arrives in Syria

ELIZABETH A. KENNEDY

Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — The first American ambassador to Syria since 2005 arrived in Damascus on Sunday at a time of regional turmoil and with Syrian-U.S. relations still mired in mutual distrust.

Few expect immediate changes, but having career diplomat Robert Ford in Damascus offers Washington a better glimpse into Syria at a time of rising tensions — particularly in neighboring Lebanon, where the Western-backed government collapsed last week.

“Intelligence sharing is the most promising overlap in U.S.-Syrian relations,” said Joshua Landis, an American professor and Syria expert. He

noted that like Washington, Syria’s secular regime is against al-Qaida and “takfiri” Islamists, referring to an ideology that urges Sunni Muslims to kill anyone they consider an infidel.

President Barack Obama’s administration has argued that returning an ambassador to Damascus would help persuade Syria to change its policies regarding Lebanon, Israel and Iraq and end its support for extremist groups. Syria is designated a “state sponsor of terrorism” by the State Department.

Ford takes up his post just days after the government in Lebanon collapsed when Hezbollah, which gets key support from Syria and Iran, walked out of the Cabinet on



In this photo taken Wednesday, Jan. 12, 2011, the U.S. embassy building is seen in Damascus, Syria.

Associated Press

Egyptian church shooting attacker gets death sentence

HAMZA HENDAWI,

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — An Egyptian court on Sunday convicted and sentenced to death a Muslim man for killing six Christians and a Muslim guard last year — the latest in a series of moves by authorities seeking to calm religious tensions following a massive suicide bombing outside a church two weeks ago. The violence has raised fears of a deepening and potentially explosive Muslim-Christian divide in this key U.S. ally, which is already beset by a widening income gap and frustration over government corruption and a lack of democratic reform. Sunday’s hearing was held in the southern Egyptian city of Qena, where the trial began 11 months ago, amid tight security, with hundreds of riot police sealing off roads leading to the courthouse.

Chief defendant Mohammed Ahmed Hassanein, also known by his alias Hammam al-Kamouni, broke down on hearing the sentence read out by presiding judge Mohammed Fahmy Abdul-Maugoud. “I am a victim, I did not do it,” screamed Hassanein. He was convicted of first degree murder and



Mohammed Ahmed Hassanein, also known by his alias Hammam al-Kamouni, one of three suspects charged in the Coptic Christmas Eve drive-by shooting on Jan. 6, 2010 in southern Egyptian town of Nag Hamadi that killed seven people, looks on during his trial in the emergency state security court in Qena, Egypt, in this Saturday, Feb. 13, 2010 file photo.

Associated Press

terror-related charges. The State Security Court, whose rulings cannot be appealed, will announce next month verdicts for the other two defendants in the case, judicial officials said on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to share the information with the media. The death sentence comes as Egypt’s government is scrambling to contain Christian anger after a Jan. 1 suicide bombing at a church in the port city of Alexandria that killed 21 worshippers. The two attacks took place

almost exactly a year apart and both struck worshippers leaving Mass in the days leading up to Orthodox Christmas, which Egypt’s Coptic Christian minority celebrate on Jan. 7. Exacerbating Christian anger, an off-duty policeman boarded a train in southern Egypt last week and opened fire, killing a 71-year-old Christian man and wounding five others, including the man’s wife. The shooting and the suicide bombing have sparked several Christian protests, some violent. □

Wednesday.

The government fell after months of tensions stemming from a U.N.-backed investigation into the assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri. Many have blamed the killing on Syria and Hezbollah. President George W. Bush’s administration withdrew a full-time ambassador from Syria in 2005 in part to protest Hariri’s assassination.

Both Syria and Hezbollah deny any links to the assassination, which galvanized opposition to Damascus in 2005 and sparked huge street demonstrations that helped end Syria’s 29-year military presence in Lebanon and paved the way for pro-Western parties — led by Saad Hariri, the slain man’s son — to head the government in subsequent elections.

The tribunal is expected to issue indictments soon, and many expect the Shiite militant group Hezbollah to be named. The indictments could rekindle violence in Lebanon, which has been plagued for decades by war and civil strife. With Syria’s backing, Hezbollah has demanded Saad Hariri break off Lebanon’s ties with the tribunal, but he has refused. The collapse of his Western-backed government on Wednesday was a clear sign of the strength of Hezbollah — along with its

Syrian and Iranian patrons — and a setback for U.S. policy in the region.

Ford’s arrival is a clear sign of Obama’s push for engagement.

Obama nominated Ford, a former ambassador to Algeria, to the post in February.

The nomination stalled after Ford’s confirmation hearings, but Obama bypassed the Senate in December and directly appointed Ford and three other new U.S. ambassadors whose nominations had been stalled or blocked by lawmakers for months.

A number of senators objected because they believed sending an ambassador to Syria would reward it for bad behavior.

Syria has bounced back from years of international isolation and is wielding its influence in crises around the Middle East, shrugging off U.S. attempts to pull it away from its alliances with Iran, Hamas and Hezbollah.

Washington has increasingly expressed its frustration with Syria, which it says is stirring up tension through its support of Hezbollah. In October, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said Syria’s behavior “has not met our hopes and expectations.”

Syria could benefit from improved ties with Washington, which would boost its economy and end sanctions first imposed by Bush. □

'Baby Doc' Duvalier back in Haiti after long exile

JACOB KUSHNER

Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Former Haitian dictator Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier returned Sunday to Haiti after nearly 25 years in exile, a surprising and perplexing move that comes as his country struggles with a political crisis and the stalled effort to recover from last year's devastating earthquake. Duvalier, wearing a dark suit and tie, arrived on an Air France jet to hugs from supporters at the Port-au-Prince airport. He was calm as he was led into the immigration office and did not immediately make a statement to a waiting crowd of journalists.

"He is happy to be back in this country, back in his home," said Mona Beruaveau, a candidate for Senate in a Duvalierist party who spoke to the former dictator inside the immigration office. "He is tired after a long trip."

Beruaveau said he would give

a news conference on Monday. There were no immediate protests in reaction to his return and very few people were even aware that the former dictator had come back to Haiti.

In the fall of 2007, President Rene Preval told reporters that Duvalier could return to Haiti but would face justice for the deaths of thousands of people and the theft of millions of dollars.

Haitians danced in the streets to celebrate the overthrow of Duvalier back in 1986, heckling the tubby, boyish tyrant as he was driven to the airport in a black limousine and flown into exile in France. Most Haitians hoped the rapacious strongman known had left for good, closing a dark chapter of terror and repression that began under his late father, Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier.

But a handful of loyalists have been campaigning to bring Duvalier home from

exile in France, launching a foundation to improve the dictatorship's image and reviving Baby Doc's political party in the hopes that one day he can return to power democratically.

Prime Minister Jean-Max Bellerive said that if Duvalier is involved in any political activities he is not aware of them.

"He is a Haitian and, as such, is free to return home," the prime minister told The Associated Press.

The Duvaliers tortured and killed their political opponents, ruling in an atmosphere of fear and repression ensured by the bloody Tonton Macoute secret police.

The end of his reign was followed by a period known as deshoukaj or "uprooting" in which Haitians carried out reprisals against Macoutes and regime loyalists, tearing their houses to the ground.

Duvalier has been accused of pilfering millions of dollars

from public funds and spiriting them to Swiss banks, though he denies stealing from Haiti. Dictators have long favored hiding their cash in the European nation due to its banking secrecy rules, but last year, lawmakers there approved a bill making it easier to seize ill-gotten funds. At the time, reports said Haiti was to receive about \$7 million seized from Duvalier's Swiss accounts.

Duvalier's return Sunday comes as the country struggles to work through a dire political crisis following the problematic Nov. 28 first-round presidential election.

Three candidates want to go onto a second round. The Organization of American States sent in a team of experts to resolve the deadlock, recommending that Preval's candidate be excluded. Preval was reportedly not pleased with the report. OAS Secretary-General Jose Miguel Insulza was scheduled



In this May 25, 1980 file photo, Haiti's former dictator Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier gives a news conference at his ranch on the outskirts of Port Au Prince, Haiti.

Associated Press

to be in Port-au-Prince to meet with Preval on Monday. The news floored Haiti experts and has thrown the country's entire political situation into question. Immediately speculation began about what other exiled leaders might return next. □



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Irish premier won't quit over Ireland debt crisis



Ireland's Prime Minister Brian Cowen speaks to the media in Dublin, Ireland, Sunday, Jan. 16, 2011. Cowen announced Sunday he won't resign despite intense criticism of his management of the country's European-record deficit and its international bailout.

Associated Press

SHAWN POGATCHNIK

Associated Press

DUBLIN (AP) — Irish Prime Minister Brian Cowen announced Sunday he won't resign despite intense criticism of his management of the country's European-record deficit and its international

bailout.

Cowen's declaration follows several days of talks with lawmakers in his Fianna Fail party. Many wanted him to quit immediately so that a new leader can lead the party into a spring election that, under Cowen's leadership, it is widely expected to lose. But in a trademark defiant performance, Cowen said he instead would mount a motion of confidence in his own leadership Tuesday at a meeting of party lawmakers. He said he wasn't willing to wait indefinitely for one or more of his Cabinet colleagues to mount a direct challenge to oust him.

Cowen said he was confident of winning the secret-ballot vote and lead Fianna Fail to a seventh straight election victory. Fianna Fail, which means "soldiers of destiny" in Gaelic, has governed Ireland almost continuously since 1987, but has plummeted to historic lows in recent opinion polls.

Cowen's determination to

stay leaves unsettled the question of whether his government will survive long enough to pass the emergency deficit-slashing legislation required by the €67.5 billion (\$90 billion) bailout from the European Union and International Monetary Fund. Fianna Fail rivals could quickly pursue a no-confidence motion to try to oust him. Among those who have publicly voiced a desire to replace Cowen are Finance Minister Brian Lenihan, Foreign Affairs Minister Micheal Martin and Arts and Tourism Minister Mary Hanafin.

Opposition leaders planned to press ahead with their own no-confidence motion in parliament against Cowen — and pleaded for Fianna Fail to declare an election date.

"The longer (the Irish government) stays in power, the greater the damage that is being done to the economy and to our international reputation. This government should go," said Gerry Adams, leader of

the Irish nationalist Sinn Fein party.

Cowen rose to power in June 2008 as Ireland's 13-year Celtic Tiger economic boom was giving way to a property-market implosion and banking crisis. He has faced rising accusations in recent weeks of making decisions that benefited corrupt bankers far more than taxpayers, who have been burdened with a bank-rescue bill expected to top €50 billion (\$65 billion). The pressure for Cowen's removal flared last week when a new book revealed that Cowen held several dinners and social events, including a daylong golf outing, with top bankers in the weeks before his government decided in September 2008 to insure all of the borrowings of Dublin banks — an internationally unprecedented move at the time.

The blanket guarantee of the banks failed to prevent most of those banks from facing collapse as their loan books — heavily exposed to runaway

property markets in Ireland, Britain and the United States — began to suffer massive defaults.

Ireland has nationalized four of the six Irish-owned banks and repaid tens of billions to bondholders, international investors who normally would be expected to suffer losses when a bank fails.

Ireland spent two years trying to fund the bank bailouts itself, but the cost drove Ireland's 2010 deficit to 32 percent of gross domestic product, a postwar European record. Even excluding the exceptional bank-bailout costs, Ireland spent more than €50 billion last year but collected just €31 billion as unemployment soared and taxes from property sales slowed to a trickle.

In November, as the state-owned banks found themselves unable to borrow on open markets, the European Central Bank and International Monetary Fund stepped in to insist that Ireland negotiate a multiyear loan deal. □

Palm Beach boasts authentic Mediterranean cuisine



By ARUBA TODAY

PALM BEACH -- When we say Mediterranean cuisine, we mean the food from the adjacent nation-states sharing the shores of the Mediterranean, embracing many cultures and influenced by varied customs.

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Cards' Pujols sheds no light on contract talks

St. Louis Cardinals Albert Pujols horses around with former teammate Steve Kline as he signs autographs for fans at the Cardinals Winter Warm-up, Sunday, Jan. 16, 2011 in St. Louis.

Associated Press

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SPORTS

Aruba TODAY



On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: 582-7800 Monday, January 17, 2011

Mark Wilson takes 54-hole lead at Sony



Mark Wilson, right, uses a bottle of cold water to cool his face before the start of the final round of the Sony Open golf tournament, Sunday, Jan. 16, 2011, in Honolulu.

Associated Press

DOUG FERGUSON

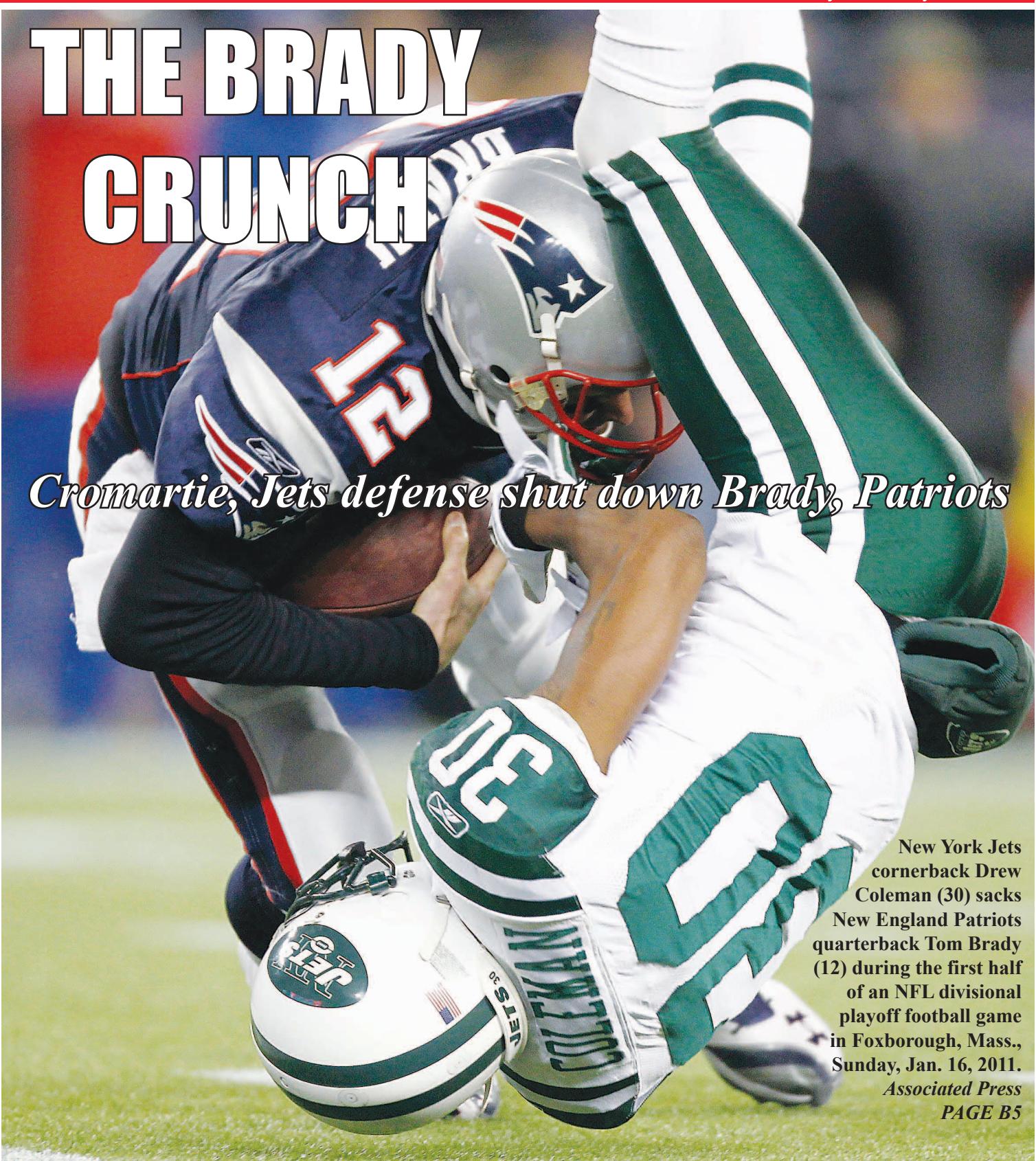
AP Golf Writer

HONOLULU (AP) — Mark Wilson began a marathon day at the Sony Open with a 5-under 65 to take a one-shot lead after 54 holes before heading out for the final round. Rain earlier in the week washed out the opening round and forced a 36-hole Sunday. With a reduced cut to 56 players, separated by only seven shots going into the last day, it figured to be wide open. Wilson got his nose in front with a bogey-free round, making birdies on the two par 5s at Waialae and chipping in from birdie from behind the third green. He was at 13-under 197, one shot ahead of Steve Marino, who made eagle on his final hole had a 66.

Continued on Next Page

THE BRADY CRUNCH

Cromartie, Jets defense shut down Brady, Patriots



New York Jets cornerback Drew Coleman (30) sacks New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady (12) during the first half of an NFL divisional playoff football game in Foxborough, Mass., Sunday, Jan. 16, 2011.

Associated Press
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NFL warns teams about trash talk

Associated Press
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Friends for now, Rafa and Roger warm up together

JOHN PYE

AP Sports Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Roger and Rafa were behaving like best mates on Rod Laver Arena — high-fiving, hugging, shaking hands and laughing at each other's jokes on the eve of the Australian Open.

Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal at the "Rally for Relief" to raise money for victims of the fatal floods in Australia's northeastern Queensland state. It'll be a completely different story if they're back on the same court two weeks from Sunday.

Federer is the defending champion. Nadal has won the three Grand Slam titles in the interim and is aiming to become the first man since Laver in 1969 to win four straight majors. It's being dubbed the "Rafa Slam."

The pair played on opposite sides of the net, and the played together against Kim Clijsters and Sam Stosur in front of a capacity 15,000 crowd which paid to watch a host of tennis stars in the fundraiser. Novak Djokovic and Andy Roddick wore microphones and joked with the crowd, playing alongside and against the likes of Caroline Wozniacki and Victoria Azarenka in the celebrity hit-and-giggle exhibition. Neither Federer nor Nadal wore microphones when they played a little later. It was mostly smiles but there were glimpses of competitive intensity when they faced



Switzerland's Roger Federer and Spain's Rafael Nadal, right, celebrate a point win during a charity tennis event, "Rally for Relief" on Rod Laver Arena in Melbourne, Australia, Sunday, Jan. 16, 2011.

Associated Press

each other in mixed doubles. At one point, 16-time Grand Slam winner Federer used his court craft to bring Nadal to the net and then beat with a backhand passing shot. The muscular Spaniard replied next point, leaping high and smashing an overhead winner beyond Federer's reach. After each of those winners, the two smiled broadly at each other. Nadal also bludgeoned a forehand down the line on the last point of their singles mini-match and then, shaking hands and laughing, the two standout players in men's tennis joined forces against U.S. Open champion Clijsters and French Open finalist Sam Stosur — Australia's best hope in the women's draw.

Around their exhibition Sunday, Federer said Nadal has "been playing incredible." "An incredible run through the French, Wimbledon, U.S. Open — it was incredible to see. Then obviously it's hard to maintain. But he's going to be for sure ready for this. I'll follow it very closely. If I get a chance, I hope I can stop him."

SONY

Continued from Page B1

"Now I've just got to catch my breath," Wilson said. "I've got two minutes to make it to the tee. I've got my sandwich for the afternoon, eight new golf balls and I'm all set." The groups did not change from the morning because of the race to finish on Sunday. At one point, Brendan de Jonge was on the fourth hole of his final round and two shots out of the lead with a half-dozen players still in the third round.

Matt Kuchar, who could move inside the top 10 in the world for the first time in his career if he were to win, shot a 66 and was in the group two shots behind along with Jimmy Walker and Stuart Appleby.

Shigeki Maruyama, who shared the 36-hole lead with Appleby, had an even-par 70 to fall three shots behind.

Walker didn't spend much time looking at the leaderboard, knowing how

The first major of the year gets underway Monday with 2008 women's champion Maria Sharapova playing Thailand's Tamarine Tanasugarn in the opening match on center court, followed by No. 1 Wozniacki against Gisela Dulko of Argentina and Federer playing Lukas Lacko of Slovakia.

Third-seeded Djokovic,

the 2008 champion, plays

Spaniard Marcel Granollers in the main night match on Rod Laver Arena.

Andy Roddick plays Jan Hajek of the Czech Republic on the second showcourt. Following Roddick on Hisense Arena will be fourth-seeded Venus Williams against Italy's Sara Errani and seven-time Grand Slam winner Justine Henin against Indian qualifier Sania Mirza. With Serena Williams unable to defend her title because of her injured foot, Clijsters is growing in favoritism at Melbourne Park. She faces a challenging opening match Tuesday against former No. 1-ranked Dinara Safina, who slumped in the rankings last year due to a back injury and hasn't reached a Grand Slam final since consecutive defeats in championship matches at Melbourne and Paris in 2009.

Clijsters, a three-time U.S. Open champion, has played down talk about favorites.

"I really don't want to waste too much energy on what's happening on other parts of the draw or what's being said around us," she said Sunday. □



Mark Wilson follows his drive off the 10th tee during the third round of the Sony Open golf tournament Sunday, Jan. 16, 2011, in Honolulu.

Associated Press

quickly it could change and how far he still had to go. He holed a 35-foot birdie putt on No. 11, his second hole of the third round, and also played without a bogey.

"You can watch the leaderboard and see if you've got to kind of try to make a few more birdies here and there," Walker said. "But I'm

just going to try to keep doing what I'm doing. It's working pretty good."

Some players failed to keep pace.

Ernie Els, who won in a 36-hole Sunday finish in South Africa last month, had to settle for a 68 and was six shots behind. □

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Late ejections mar Clippers' 99-92 win over Lakers

By GREG BEACHAM

AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES — Eric Gordon scored 30 points, Blake Griffin had 18 points and 15 rebounds after a foul-plagued start, and the Los Angeles Clippers snapped the Los Angeles Lakers' seven-game winning streak with a 99-92 victory Sunday.

Four players were ejected from this crosstown rivalry game after a scuffle under the basket with 5.7 seconds to play.

After Lamar Odom grabbed Griffin's jersey while fighting for a rebound, Baron Davis intervened and shoved Odom firmly in the chest, leading to more shoves. Odom, Griffin, Davis and Ron Artest all were ejected after the officials conferred, a decision that visibly baffled Griffin and Artest.

Kobe Bryant had 27 points and

nine rebounds, and Andrew Bynum added 18 points and 13 rebounds for the Lakers, who couldn't keep up with the young Clippers in the fourth quarter.

Davis had 14 points and eight assists as the surging Clippers won for the fourth time in five games with yet another strong performance against the NBA's elite. Four days after beating Miami, the Clippers trailed by 12 points late in the third quarter before making a 16-3 run in the final minutes, taking the lead with 4:09 left on Griffin's layup while getting fouled.

The Clippers limited Pau Gasol to 13 points and eight rebounds before he fouled out, stopping the Lakers' roll toward their second eight-game winning streak of the season. The Lakers lost for just the second time in 11 games since Bynum returned

to their starting lineup.

The Staples Center crowd largely favored the Lakers, as usual when the clubs meet in their shared arena. But the Clippers still thrived in the final minutes for their ninth win in 13 games since a 5-21 start to the season.

The Clippers have played superbly against the NBA's best teams, also beating New Orleans and San Antonio when those clubs had the league's best record before stopping Miami.

Yet the Clippers are still stuck near the bottom of the Western Conference because of their propensity for following up big wins with awful defeats, such as last Friday's loss to Golden State following Wednesday's win over the Heat.

Griffin broke Swen Nater's franchise record for consecutive double-doubles



Los Angeles Clippers guard Eric Gordon (10) passes the ball after being stopped by Los Angeles Lakers forward Pau Gasol (16), of Spain, and Lakers center Andrew Bynum (17) in the first half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, Jan. 16, 2011, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

a week ago, but committed three fouls in the first half against the Lakers and didn't find a rhythm until late in the third quarter.

The rookie swiftly reached double digits in points and rebounds for the 26th straight game early in the fourth, but his streak of 14 straight games

with at least 20 points ended. The Lakers got to spend the long holiday weekend at home after winning seven games in an 11-day stretch. Bryant scored 14 points in the third quarter on a dazzling array of fallaway jumpers and drives, but the Lakers lost steam in the fourth. □

Al-Attiyah, Coma win Dakar Rally

BARADERO, Argentina (AP) — Nasser Al-Attiyah of Qatar made up for heartbreak a year ago by finally winning his first Dakar Rally title on Saturday and becoming the first Arab champion of the world's toughest rally.

Al-Attiyah only had to avoid mistakes on the 13th and last stage, a 113-mile sprint on gravel from Cordoba to the Baradero race track, to win the Dakar at his sixth attempt. "We did it," Al-Attiyah said. "I am so happy."

Spanish rider Marc Coma won the race for the third time on his motorbike, and Vladimir Chagin of Russia won a record seventh truck title.

Al-Attiyah's rally credentials were impressive, with six various championships in classic and cross-country rallying since 2008 alone. But until this year, the Dakar had been a mainly frustrating experience. In 2009, Al-Attiyah had to pull out when



Volkswagen's car driver Nasser Al-Attiyah, from Qatar, right, biting a trophy, poses for pictures as he celebrates during the 2011 Argentina-Chile Dakar Rally podium ceremony in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Sunday, Jan. 16, 2011. Al-Attiyah claimed his first Dakar Rally title and Spanish rider Marc Coma won the race for the third time on his motorbike as the two-week trek wrapped up on Saturday.

Associated Press

his engine overheated on the sixth stage while he held an overall lead of more than 20 minutes. Then last year, he chased Spanish teammate Carlos Sainz all the way to the end, losing by only 2 minutes in the closest Dakar finish ever.

This year, he overtook Sainz on Monday in the Atacama Desert and held his nerve and the overall lead to the finish line, calling the victory with his German navigator Timo Gottschalk "the biggest moment of my career." □

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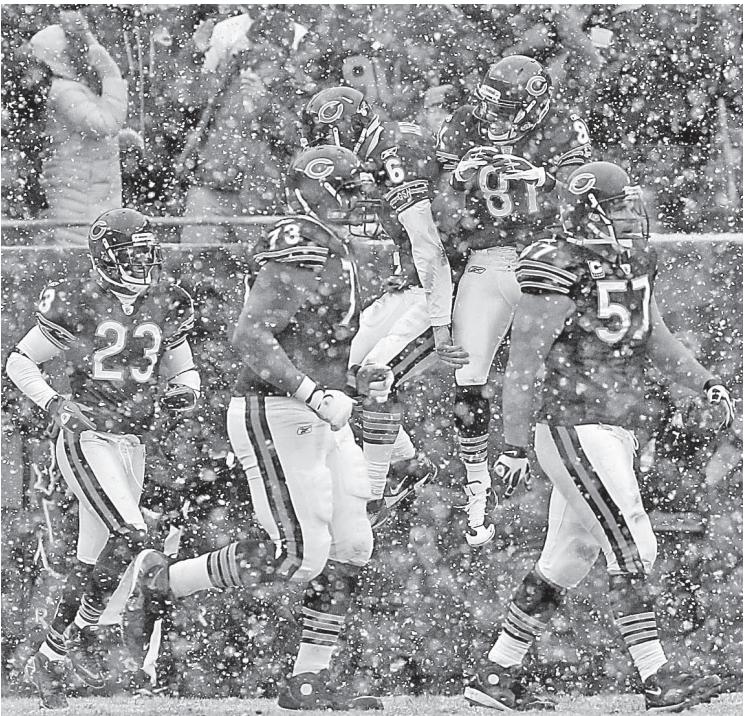


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Snow falls as Chicago Bears quarterback Jay Cutler (6) celebrates with teammates after rushing for a touchdown against the Seattle Seahawks during the first half an NFL divisional playoff football game Sunday, Jan. 16, 2011, in Chicago.

Associated Press

By BARRY WILNER

AP Pro Football Writer

CHICAGO – Football's oldest rivalry has a grand new prize: a spot in the Super Bowl.

The Bears' 35-24 dismantling of overmatched Seattle on Sunday sets up the biggest game in their 90-year series with the Packers. Chicago and Green Bay will play for the 182nd time next Sunday, but their first meeting for the NFC title.

Jay Cutler ran for two touchdowns and threw for two as Chicago (12-5) pounded the Seahawks (8-10) from the outset, gliding through the snowflakes to score 21 first-half points. The defense was monstrous enough when it mattered, shutting down an offense that scored 41 points

against New Orleans last week, but that gained only 111 through three periods at Soldier Field, where Seattle managed a 23-20 victory in October.

Although it got closer at the end, this was the result many projected the first division winner with a losing record would sustain, making it difficult to measure how good the Bears are. The NFL will find out next week against the Packers, who have beaten third-seeded Philadelphia and top-seeded Atlanta on the road this month. But to compare these Bears with the "Super Bowl Shuffle" bunch that won Chicago's only Super Bowl 25 years ago is a stretch.

"Now that we have beaten the Seahawks, it just doesn't

Bears beat Seahawks 35-24, Packers next

get any better, as I see it, than for the NFC championship coming down to the Packers coming down on our turf this time," Bears coach Lovie Smith said. "The Packers and Bears to finish it up."

Cutler, in his first postseason game, showed none of the wild swings that often have marked his five-year career. He did show some shifty moves on a 6-yard run that made it 21-0, essentially turning everyone's attention to next weekend.

"We're both familiar with each other, so nothing's going to be new," Cutler said. "We have our hands full."

Not much was expected of the Bears when the season began, but they've improved mightily since falling to 4-3 heading into their bye week. They clinched a playoff berth with two games remaining, grabbing their first NFC North championship since 2006 — when they lost to Indianapolis in the Super Bowl.

Unlike Atlanta and Pittsburgh on Saturday, they showed no rust from having a bye in dominating Seattle. Then again, the Seahawks showed none of the surging emotions or big-play abilities they sprung on the Saints at home. It was merely a one-week reprieve, and they went even flatter after tight end John Carlson was carted off with

a head injury in the first quarter following a nasty spill; Carlson landed on the side of his helmet and his shoulder, but had movement in his extremities.

Seattle lost cornerback Marcus Trufant to a head injury in the third quarter when he collided with Kellen Davis' knee while trying to make a tackle. Trufant also was carted off, but he also had feeling in his extremities.

Chicago put away the game with touchdowns on three of its first four possessions, by which time Brian Urlacher, Julius Peppers and the rest of the defense had taken charge. "Now we're back, playing together, hopefully peaking at the right time," Urlacher said.

Greg Olsen, showing impressive speed for a tight end, streaked past safety Lawyer Milloy for a 58-yard TD reception on Chicago's third offensive play. Chester Taylor added a 1-yard TD run and Cutler's 6-yarder built an insurmountable lead.

Cutler liked using his feet so much he added a 9-yard sprint in the third quarter to make it 28-0. He even threw in a 21-yard scramble in the fourth quarter and finished with 43 yards rushing, 9 more than the Seahawks.

"It was fun," Cutler said of his own shuffling. "That first one

was called, second one was kind of improv."

Olindo Mare's 30-yard field goal got the first points for Seattle, which will get mixed reviews in Pete Carroll's first season as coach. The Seahawks went 7-9, hardly what they had in mind when they hired Carroll away from Southern Cal. Still, they won the weak NFC West, and they eliminated the defending Super Bowl champions in the wild-card round.

"It took a long time for them to ... fight and compete and do the things we want them to do," Carroll said. "I would have loved to have got this game today that so many people didn't think we could. I see where we're going and I'm proud of that."

But the prospect of a .500 team playing for a berth in the Super Bowl is gone, even though Matt Hasselbeck threw for three fourth-quarter touchdowns.

So bring on the Packers, who lost to the Bears 33-14 at Wrigley Field on Dec. 14, 1941 in their only previous playoff meeting. Green Bay beat Chicago 10-3 in the season finale to clinch a playoff spot earlier this month. The Packers haven't been to the Super Bowl since the 1997 season, when they lost to Denver. □



St. Louis Cardinals Albert Pujols greets a young fan as he signs autographs at the Cardinals Winter Warm-up, Sunday, Jan. 16, 2011 in St. Louis.

Associated Press

Cards' Pujols sheds no light on contract talks

By R.B. FALLSTROM

AP Sports Writer

ST. LOUIS – Albert Pujols repeatedly has said he wants to spend his entire career with the St. Louis Cardinals. Staring at a spring training deadline for contract negotiations, the team chairman remains hopeful the three-time NL MVP will get his wish.

Pujols declined Sunday to provide any kind of update on negotiations. His agent has said he will cut off talks at the start of spring training if an agreement is not in place, and general manager John Mozeliak confirmed the deadline on Saturday.

A representative of Pujols' agent stood to the slugger's left and deflected questions on the topic at Sunday's news conference

before the first baseman held a two-hour, sold-out autograph session at the team's Winter Warmup.

"Do you want to bring all that into the clubhouse all year, like you guys have been doing the last couple of years?" Pujols said. "No. I respect my teammates more than this contract."

"That's why you have to set some deadline on this, and that's it."

Neither side would offer a sense of how the talks are going. At one point, Cardinals media relations director Brian Bartow stepped in and said Pujols' agent had set ground rules for the news conference.

Chairman Bill DeWitt said the Cardinals' payroll for next season projects to "well above \$100 million," which is the highest ever for the franchise and includes \$16

million for Pujols' option year. DeWitt said Pujols was irreplaceable, both as a talent and as the face of the franchise.

"That's all wrapped into one. He's an iconic player because he's such a great player," DeWitt said. "He's proven year in and year out that he's one of the greatest players to play the game."

"He's never had a bad year and has lifetime totals that are incredible. You can't go out and find an Albert Pujols."

DeWitt said the best word to characterize the Cardinals' stance was hopeful.

"We want him to be with us," DeWitt said. "Until something happens one way or another, there's not a lot to say beyond that."

Manager Tony La Russa said he'd stay out of the talks. □

Jets shocker: Ryan's boys back up talk, win 28-21

By HOWARD ULMAN

AP Sports Writer

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — Shonn Greene placed the ball on the ground and used it as a pillow, resting his head on it after scoring the Jets' final touchdown of a stunning upset.

A quiet climax to a very loud week of non-stop jabbering, poking, berating, and then some, mostly by the New Yorkers.

On Sunday, they proved that they weren't all talk — trash talk — after all.

Now Rex Ryan's rowdy bunch is headed to its second straight AFC championship game after New York backed up its coach's boasts with a 28-21 win Sunday over the New England Patriots — the team with the best record in the NFL.

Mark Sanchez threw three touchdown passes and the Jets sacked Tom Brady five times in the most-hyped of the weekend's four postseason games following a week of verbal potshots from both teams.

"Maybe everybody else never believed, but we believed," Ryan said. "We're moving on. Same old Jets, back to the AFC championship. The only difference is this time we plan on winning."

In the end, Ryan was true to his exuberant self. He ran down the sideline and celebrated with his players after Greene's 16-yard score with 1:41 left. And, when the game was over, Jets wide receiver Braylon Edwards did a backflip.

"We don't care what people say or whether they like us," cornerback Darrelle Revis



New England Patriots defensive tackle Brandon Deaderick (71), linebacker Jerod Mayo (51), and cornerback Devin McCourty (32) walk off the field after an NFL divisional playoff football game against the New York Jets in Foxborough, Mass., Sunday, Jan. 16, 2011. The Jets defeated the Patriots 28-21.

Associated Press

said. "We just focus on what we need to do to win games." New York led its fierce rival 14-3 at halftime before Brady's 2-yard touchdown pass to Alge Crumpler and Sammy Morris' run for a 2-point conversion made it 14-11 late in the third quarter. But Sanchez came right back with a 7-yard scoring pass to Santonio Holmes and New York finished the upset with Greene's touchdown.

The Jets (13-5) kept Ryan's prediction of a Super Bowl appearance alive. The Patriots (14-3) lost their third straight postseason game.

They lost last season to Indianapolis 30-17, but now have another chance for their first Super Bowl berth since 1969 when another loudmouth, "Broadway Joe" Namath, backed up his guarantee with a 16-7 win over the Baltimore Colts.

Ryan has said many times that the Jets are a Super Bowl-caliber team, and has irritated fans, opposing players and media with his bold remarks. Last week he said the game was a contest between him and Patriots coach Bill Belichick. Then, after Antonio Cromartie called Brady an expletive on Tuesday, Ryan said he wouldn't punish his cornerback.

The ultra-serious Belichick wasn't as kind to Wes Welker. The wide receiver was benched

for the Patriots first series for subtle remarks apparently directed at Ryan. Welker made several references to feet in his news conference Thursday, interpreted by some as a dig at recent foot-fetish reports involving Ryan.

"I didn't think anything about it. I'm just waiting for the opportunity to go out and play," Welker said. "I respect the New York Jets. I respect Rex Ryan."

Belichick refused to comment on why Welker missed the first series.

When the game ended, Belichick walked slowly to midfield where he met Ryan, patted his conqueror on the back with his left hand and shared some words.

"We just didn't do enough things well today," Belichick said. "It's obvious."

Sanchez completed 16 of 25 passes for 194 yards and touchdowns to LaDainian Tomlinson, Edwards and Holmes. Brady, who played poorly for his second straight postseason game, was 29-for-45 for 299 yards, two touchdowns and one interception.

"Our expectations this season were very high," Brady said. "Playoff football comes and really it comes down to who makes the plays, and we made too many mistakes."

Now Sanchez gets a chance to beat one of the NFL's best

quarterbacks for the third straight week when he faces Ben Roethlisberger after knocking off Peyton Manning, who won the NFL's last two MVP awards and Brady, who is a favorite to win his second in four years.

"He's just now getting better and better and better," Ryan said.

He wasn't very good on Dec. 6 when the Patriots routed the Jets 45-3. That didn't matter Sunday.

"We don't try to look back and try to fight history," receiver Jerricho Cotchery said. "We play in that moment. That's what it was all about today — making today our day."

And the trash talk just keeps coming.

"Big Ben, he's next on our list," Edwards said.

The Steelers have been made 3-point favorites.

In one of their worst halves of the season, the Patriots looked more like the ragged group that went 5-11 in Belichick's first season in 2000 than the steamrolling machine that led the NFL this season with a 14-2 record and 32.4 points per game.

In the first two quarters, Brady absorbed three sacks and was sent scrambling at least that many times. He misfired on an interception on his first series after finishing the season with a league-record streak of 335 passes without a pick. □

NFL warns teams about trash talk

By BARRY WILNER

AP Pro Football Writer

CHICAGO — The NFL has warned players to cut out the trash talk, specifically when it threatens other players.

"Ray Anderson reminded players that comments of a physically threatening nature are always taken into account in evaluating discipline for any illegal physical contact on the field," league spokesman Greg Aiello said Saturday.

NFL executive vice president of football operations Anderson is the league's chief disciplinarian. He told teams, including all eight remaining in the playoffs, to basically watch it.

Since October, the NFL has ratcheted up its enforcement of hits to defenseless players with a series of fines — and the threat of suspension. No suspensions have been handed out, but the recent rash of trash talk before playoff games prompted Anderson to further emphasize the need to respect the game and opponents.

Earlier this week, Jets cornerback Antonio Cromartie described Patriots quarterback Tom Brady with a derogatory term. New York is at New England on Sunday in the final divisional round game this weekend.

Ravens linebacker Terrell Suggs wore a T-shirt with a Raven on it extending a middle finger. Suggs said he was "representing" Baltimore as it headed to Saturday's playoff game at Pittsburgh.

In the second meeting of the regular season between the AFC North rivals, the Ravens broke Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger's nose — accidentally — on a hit by nose tackle Haloti Ngata.

"I was glad we broke his nose," Ravens coach John Harbaugh said with a wry grin this week, "and I was very impressed he played through it. Obviously, you can throw very effectively with a broken nose. He proved that."

Although Harbaugh was kidding, the comment did rankle some people in Pittsburgh, and perhaps elsewhere around the league. □

Packers, Steelers advance to title games

BARRY WILNER

AP Pro Football Writer

The Green Bay Packers took care of the top seed in the NFC, and the Pittsburgh Steelers sent home their archrivals from the AFC North in entirely different manners Saturday.

Sixth-seeded Green Bay routed the Falcons 48-21 in Atlanta as Aaron Rodgers threw for three touchdowns and ran for one. The Packers, who won at Philadelphia last weekend, will play for the NFC title next Sunday at either Chicago or Seattle. The Packers lost in the conference championship game three years ago to the Giants.

"That's what you dream about," Rodgers said. "We have to go on the road again

... this just feels so good right now, to be able to put up an offensive performance like that, it's just incredible."

The 48 points were the most for the Packers in a postseason game. Plus, Tramon Williams had two interceptions, returning the second 70 yards on the final play of the first half, and Green Bay never punted. Other than a 102-yard kickoff return by Eric Weems in the first half, the Packers (12-6) shut down Atlanta (13-4) when the outcome was in doubt.

For the fifth time in 10 years, the Steelers are headed to the AFC championship game. They have a second-half meltdown by the Baltimore Ravens, and some clutch passes by Ben Roethlisberger,

to thank for a 31-24 victory in a sloppy but compelling playoff matchup.

Trailing 21-7 at halftime, the Steelers (13-4) took full advantage of the Ravens frequent errors. Pittsburgh recovered two fumbles and picked off a pass in the second half, and the Ravens had several drops, including one in the end zone by Anquan Boldin that would have given Baltimore a late lead.

Instead, Billy Cundiff's 24-yard field goal tied it, then Roethlisberger hit rookie Antonio Brown for 58 yards on third-and-19, leading to Rashard Mendenhall's 2-yard run for the winning points with 1:33 remaining.

"I saw the young fella just take off, so I'm just going to throw



Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger (7) celebrates after running back Rashard Mendenhall scored the game-winning touchdown during the second half of an NFL divisional football game against the Baltimore Ravens, in Pittsburgh, Saturday, Jan. 15, 2011. The Steelers won 31-24.

Associated Press

it up for you," Roethlisberger said.

Pittsburgh has been in the AFC title game in 2001, '04, '05 and '08, and won the Super Bowl the last two times it got this far.

On Sunday, NFC West winner Seattle is at NFC North

champion Chicago, then AFC East rivals New England, the league leader with a 14-2 record, and the sixth-seeded New York Jets meet in Foxborough, Mass.

Both the Jets and Patriots beat the Steelers this season at Heinz Field. □

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Ivica Kostelic wins World Cup slalom at Wengen

GRAHAM DUNBAR

AP Sports Writer

WENGEN, Switzerland (AP) — Ivica Kostelic of Croatia extended his runaway start to 2011, winning a men's World Cup slalom Sunday for his fourth victory in 15 days.

Kostelic had a combined two-run time of 1 minute, 45.28 seconds on the to stretch his lead in the World Cup overall and slalom standings.

The 31-year-old Croatian also won the super-combined here on Friday in his lifetime-best streak of form and results, which includes second- and fifth-place finishes this year.

"For sure, it's the best weekend of my career and I'm very happy that it happened in Wengen," Kostelic said. "It's a beautiful thing to be here."

Marcel Hirscher of Austria led after the first run but finished 0.93 seconds behind in second place. Jean-Baptiste Grange of France was third, trailing Kostelic by 0.99.

"You really had to attack the second run," said Kostelic, who was 1.02 faster than Hirscher in the second leg.

Kostelic started the year winning the invitation-only parallel slalom event at Munich. He added the slalom at nearby Adelboden a week ago, edging Hirscher again.

Each victory worth 100 World Cup points has carried Kostelic clear in the standings with half the season to run.

He now has a 215-point advantage on Norway's Aksel Lund Svindal, who has suggested Kostelic is favored to win his first season-long title.

"If I keep skiing like this then I am (favorite)," said Kostelic, whose sister Janica won three women's overall trophies before retiring from racing.

Kostelic got his 15th career World Cup win, with 11 in his specialist discipline. Sunday's victory was his third in a Wengen slalom, including last year.

Hirscher said he was content with a 13th career top-3 finish, which at Wengen means a helicopter ride past the Eiger and Jungfrau mountain peaks to reach the news conference in a village school.

"It's great to be on the podium. The helicopter flight here is so amazing," said the 21-year-old Austrian, who trails Kostelic by 77 points in the discipline standings.

Grange, who has been plagued by injuries since his 2009 World Cup slalom title, screamed with satisfaction and slammed a ski pole into the snow on setting the fastest time before Kostelic and Hirscher ran again.

David Chodounsky of the United States got a career-best 19th place finish. He earned his first World Cup points in a Jan. 6 slalom in Zagreb, Croatia, when he was 20th.

The 26-year-old Minnesota native, who learned skiing on the same hill as childhood friend Lindsey Vonn, used the sixth-fastest time of the afternoon run to be 2.23 down on Kostelic.

"Scoring in Zagreb got me started. Then I could tell myself I could charge and the nervousness goes away," Chodounsky said.

On a tough day for the American team, Bode Miller went out after straddling the third



gate and Ted Ligety spilled midway down. Teammate Will Brandenburg misjudged his exit from the start house and straddled the first gate.

Kostelic's sparkling form on back-to-back Swiss weekends coincided with warm weather creating soft race surfaces. The modern Alpine era has seen courses injected with water to create slick, icy tracks.

Kostelic is renowned for his expertise racing on slushy, spring-like snow, and prides himself on continuing to train when others have started offseason vacations.

"I just skied pretty well in the ruts, and in the super-

combined (slalom) as well," said Kostelic, referring to his runs on the Jungfrau track that adjoins Wengen's fabled Lauberhorn downhill course.

"This is what the old World Cup was in (Ingemar) Stenmark's time," he added, referring to the Swedish great who won a record 86 World Cup races from 1974-89. "We saw the guys fighting against the ruts. Ordinary skiers and tourists can recognize themselves right there because this is the snow they are skiing on."

"Since 2003, we've had ice, ice, ice. Sometimes it's ice-rink ice. ... You have to be more of a natural skier in soft snow." □

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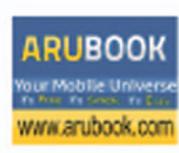
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SPORTS BRIEFS

Lochte beats Phelps in 200 IM



Ryan Lochte swims the breast stroke during the men's 200-meter individual medley race at the Austin Grand Prix swimming meet, Sunday, Jan. 16, 2011, in Austin, Texas.

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Ryan Lochte beat Michael Phelps in the 200-meter individual medley Sunday in the last of their head-to-head showdown in the Austin Grand Prix.

Lochte finished in 1 minute, 59.26 seconds, well off his world record of 1:54.10.

Eric Shanteau edged Phelps to finish second in 2:01.13. Phelps was third.

"This is a great stepping stone," Lochte said. "It's good preparation for what's coming later on. It's a good way to start off the New Year."

Brent Hayden won the 100 freestyle in 49.91. Ricky Berens finished second and Lochte was third. Phelps won Heat B of that race in 50.9 seconds. Before this meet, Phelps had never swam a B final, and this weekend he swam two — also racing the in the 200 freestyle Friday.

"I'm disappointed," Phelps said. "Obviously, I need more training. We're all just trying to catch up to (Lochte). The level he's swimming at right now is extremely high. But it's good to be here and see how everybody else is doing and how poorly I think I'm doing. This will give me a lot of motivation for the next couple of months."

Swimmers are awarded points based off a 5-3-1 scoring system for gold, silver and bronze medals. Lochte, who amassed 17 points, and Phelps (11) each won two events during the three-day meet. Though Phelps summed up his weekend as "average," he's excited to head to training camp in Colorado in February as he prepares for Olympic-qualifying meets for London 2012.

"(The meet) was nothing exciting, but it's better than what I really expected."

Fifteen-year-old Missy Franklin beat Olympian Katie Hoff in the 200 backstroke in 55.48. Franklin also won the 200 IM in 2:14.68. □

Coutts among skippers sailing at Key West regatta

KEY WEST, Florida (AP) — Reigning America's Cup skipper Russell Coutts is to set to compete in Key West 2011, a five-day regatta that begins Monday off the Florida Keys.

The four-time America's Cup winner and Olympic gold medalist is to race in the RC 44 class, a new one-design division he conceived and co-designed.

Competing against Coutts' Oracle Racing are four other RC 44 boats, including Mascalzone Latino, skippered by Vincenzo Onorato. The Italian's syndicate is serving as challenger-of-record for the 34th America's Cup in 2013.

Coutts says "the whole atmosphere (here) is laidback, yet the racing is always challenging."

A total of 136 boats in 13 classes are to sail during 10 scheduled races throughout the week. Their crew members hail from 16 countries. □

Matt Goss wins criterium prelude to Tour Down Under



Matt Goss of Australia, riding for team HTC - Highroad, celebrates after winning the Tour Down Under bicycle racing prologue at Adelaide, Australia, Sunday, Jan. 16, 2011.

Associated Press

ADELAIDE, Australia (AP) — Australian Matthew Goss won the criterium prelude to the Tour Down Under cycle race Sunday while Lance Armstrong started his last professional event outside the United States with a safe 68th-place finish.

Goss beat his compatriot and HTC Highroad teammate Mark Renshaw by a second and Robbie McEwen of Armstrong's Team RadioShack produced a remarkable ride for third after being stopped by a crash 500 meters from the finish.

The crash brought down last year's criterium winner Greg Henderson and disrupted tactical team rides that attempted to set up the race for glamor sprinters Mark Cavendish of Britain and Andre Greipel of Germany, the 2010 Tour Down Under champion.

Goss and Renshaw avoided the chaos at the second to last corner that split the field of 133 riders and extinguished the chances of many of the race's stars.

McEwen, a 12-time stage

winner at the Tour de France and a three-time winner of the tour's sprint classification, distinguished his first ride for Armstrong's team with his recovery from a seemingly impossible situation to share the podium with his fellow Australians.

"It was a good result from the position I came from and promising for the rest of the week," McEwen said. "Had it not happened, I reckon I could have won. But for the first result of the year and considering being stopped with 500 meters to go, it was as good as a win."

The race, over 30 laps of a 1 mile circuit in parkland near Adelaide's business district, was led for the first 16 laps by a breakaway group of five riders including Spain's Markel Irizar, Dane Martin Mortensen, and Alexandre Kuschynski of Belarus.

The group stretched its lead to 35 seconds but the breakaway dwindled to three riders by the 17th lap and was eventually claimed by the peloton five laps from the finish.

Jurgen Van De Walle and

Olivier Kaisen of Greipel's Omega Pharma-Lotto team and Bert Grabsch of Cavendish's HTC-Highroad outfit rode boldly at the head of the peloton in the hope of setting up the race for their sprinters.

Britain's Team Sky also worked hard to put Henderson in a winning position but their efforts came to nothing when the late crash divided the body of the field.

Greipel recovered to finish 15th, American Tyler Farrar finished 11th but Cavendish dropped back to 108th, 30 seconds behind the winner.

Armstrong, who doesn't relish the hazardous, wheel to wheel racing of the criterium, stayed in the middle of the pack for most of the race and avoided the crash. Henderson was not hurt.

Placings in Sunday's race do not count toward overall standings.

The Tour Down Under officially begins Tuesday with a 138km (90 miles) stage through South Australia State. □



Cut to the chase when calling companies with Dial Zero Android app.

Dial Zero for your Android phone will come in handy the next time you need to call a customer service number. This clever app is designed to allow you to bypass the annoying voice prompts and get to a live, human specialist and it actually works pretty well, too.

The way Dial Zero works is that it has a database of more than 600 companies, listing the information of exactly which keystrokes or phrases you can say that will immediately put you in touch with a real customer service representative.

When you launch the app, you're immediately brought inside of a tab that allows you to scour through all of the listed companies or organizations, everything from insurance agencies to your favorite chain stores. Some examples of listed corporations include Fisher-Price, American Airlines, Comcast, and Bed, Bath & Beyond.

When you click on one of these names, you're brought to a page where you can see tips of exactly which button-pushing scheme or particular phrase helped someone else to successfully get a person in the past. I spent some time clicking around on this alphabetical list, and I was quickly impressed by how helpful it was. □

Empire Online invades iOS App Store

On Saturday, the English language version of Asia's largest massively-multiplayer online role-playing game launched on the App Store. Empire Online, developed by Lakoo, is an anime-inspired adventure title that tasks players with building their own handheld kingdom. Free-to-play and swimming in nostalgia for classic RPGs, Empire Online looks ready to conquer the North American market.

For many, the golden age of role playing games was the early 90's. Games like Chrono Trigger, The Secret of Mana, and Final Fantasy 3 gave the era a distinctive artistic and gameplay flavor that has influenced developers ever since.

With the iPhone and iPod Touch, these distinctive icons of gaming lore have experienced a welcomed revival. Now, developers like Lakoo are proving that iOS gamers don't have to just be satisfied with ports of famous titles Lakoo is producing some pretty compelling new, original titles to breathe new life into the platform.

According to Lakoo's press materials, Empire Online already has over 5 million users in Asia and Australia. When you first start the game, it's not hard to see why. The graphics, avatars, and artwork

are all reminiscent of early SNES RPGs, right down to the instance-focused turn based combat system. Like any good role-playing game, Empire Online emphasizes customization. With four races (Eastland, Nordic, Atlantis and Maya), five classes, and hundreds of item to find, the possibilities for creation are substantial. Players can start out as a warrior, kung-fu fighter, wizard, hunter or shaman each with its own unique set of abilities.

Players can gain access to power-ups, special outfits, crafts, pets, and magic items in order to augment their standard attacks. But even though the game seems like it possesses a standard RPG class structure, Lakoo promises players can learn skills across all class types regardless of their chosen profession. Despite some retro graphics and cute artwork, Lakoo also promises a rigorous tutorial to ensure players understand the complex systems at work in the game. Players will first learn the essences of battling, quests, chat, equipment and empire building when first entering the game. While the beginning stages behave similarly for all users, other areas in the game are constantly getting updates. Limited-time and special

iOS 4.2

Sneak Peek

engadget



occurrence events can happen at certain parts of the game, like seeing a Christmas tree and unique holiday-themed mission around the holidays. The object of the game is to build your own empire and you can both compete against your fellow players (in one vs one, pvp combat) as well as ask for their help. By having players join your party, the group becomes stronger and can take on bosses more easily. But by joining another party (there's a limit of 5 per party) you lose control over your player's movement as a singular leader takes the reins of the group of adventurers. The game is free to play with the possibility of purchasing special bonuses in-app. According to Lakoo, you'll be able to earn certain coins from defeating enemies, but special silver coins can only be purchased through in-app

purchase.

These coins can go towards leveling up your character character and improving their stats. Kin Ko, CEO of Lakoo, wants to emphasize, however, that players can still play and gain success in the game without using in-app purchases. It may just require a bit more time and patience. "We can't wait to give English language players the keys to the kingdom. You won't believe how many MMO elements we can fit on a smartphone," explains Ko. With over 5 million users in the Asian market and a strong RPG market in North America, there's good reason for Lakoo to be excited about the launch of the English language version of Empire Online. Whether the game can repeat its epic success in the brutal American market, however, remains to be seen. □

How the AP health care poll was conducted

WASHINGTON — The Associated Press-GfK Poll on the health care bill was conducted by GfK Roper Public Affairs & Corporate Communications from Jan. 5-10, 2011. It is based on landline and cell phone telephone interviews with a nationally representative random sample of 1,001 adults. Interviews were conducted with 701 respondents on landline telephones and 300 on cellular phones.

Digits in the phone numbers dialed were generated randomly to reach households with unlisted and listed landline and cell phone numbers.

Interviews were conducted in both English and Spanish.

As is done routinely in surveys, results were weighted, or adjusted, to ensure that responses accurately reflect the population's makeup by factors such as age, sex, education, and race. In addition, the weighting took into account patterns of phone use landline only, cell only and both types by region. No more than one time in 20 should chance variations in the sample cause the results to vary by more than plus or minus 4.2 percentage points from the answers that would be obtained

GfK

if all adults in the U.S. were polled.

There are other sources of potential error in polls, including the wording and order of questions. □

Beatles memorabilia museum opens in Buenos Aires

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina – A brick from The Cavern Club, a check for 11 pounds signed by Ringo Starr, an “authentic” Beatles wig. These and thousands of other objects related to the “Fab Four” are luring Beatles fans to a new museum in Buenos Aires.

The museum is the product of the particular “Beatlemania” obsession of Rodolfo Vazquez, a 53-year-old accountant who became a fan at the age of 10 when he got their “Rubber Soul” record. “With the song ‘In my life’ I fell in love with the Beatles,” he told The Associated Press. Vazquez scooped up all the memorabilia he could find in Buenos Aires about history’s most famous rock band, an obsession that grew until he made it into Guinness World Records in 2001 as having the planet’s largest collection.

At that point, Guinness noted

Milan Opens with Amiably Amish Jil Sander

New York – If men’s fashion has any leading colorist, a designer who sets the agenda when it comes to the hues and colors fashionable men will choose to wear it is surely Raf Simons, who presented his latest collection for Jil Sander on Saturday, Jan. 15, in Milan. Bitter lemons, buttery salmons, metallic oranges and bright lichens were among the hues served up by Simons in a slick presentation staged in the Sander’s Italian headquarters on the opening day of the fall 2011 Italian men’s shows.

Reinventing a fashion label is always a tricky proposition for any designer, maybe especially so for Simons, a Belgium-born talent who sense of street theater and avant garde shapes are not exactly next door to the classically minimalist style of Sander. However, his ability to self-edit and hone his aesthetic to Sander’s aesthetic has been pretty impressive. For next winter Simons wants

that he had 5,612 items in the attic of his home in Buenos Aires. His hoard has grown to more than 8,500 records, gadgets, puppets and games since then, more than 2,200 of which are on display in the Beatle Museum that just opened this month on Avenue Corrientes, in an area of the capital where tourists throng. There are Beatles museums in Liverpool, England, and Hamburg, Germany, that display memorabilia along with objects from the band members’ lives, and other private collections as well. Julian Lennon has many that show the more personal side of the four band members, published in the book “Beatles Memorabilia. The collection of Julian Lennon,” including drawings his late father sent him when the Beatles were on tour.

But this storefront museum stands out for the sheer



Sander consumers to don lean suits, ideally in a quirky wool, so rough one would more normally expect to find it on a Scottish crofter rather than a cool Continental. Trim pants and jackets cut ever so slightly crossed over all made for a great silhouette.

But the designer’s big idea was using padded and stitched “waffle” nylon fabrics in micro-collar shirts, V-neck surgeon tops and understated dinner jackets. Simons paired them with all sorts ribbed knits, layered sometimes in triplicate, again in the understated color palette. The subtlety of Simons’ palette did recall the sort of colors one finds in the ecclesiastical robes of High Church bishops. □



quantity of pieces, carefully arranged in display cases and on the walls. There are objects for all tastes: a box of condoms with the name of John Lennon and Yoko Ono, a wig that says it adjusts to any head size, and signed pictures of the four musicians.

“The idea is to show my collection permanently. In a year I would like to rotate the items on display with others from my collection,” Vazquez said. Otherwise all of it would be closed into boxes and trunks without anyone being able to enjoy them.”

Vazquez also keeps accumulating objects, either buying or trading for them with other collectors around the world.

“In Britain and Spain I found many fans. By mail I’ve received things from Japan, Britain and Brazil, and I’m still doing it,” he said.

The Beatles broke up in 1970, but there’s no letup in interest about the band: When their song list was added to iTunes last year, more than 2 million individual songs and 450,000 copies of Beatles albums were sold in the first week.

The Beatles never performed in Argentina, but people here seem to have a soft spot for them, ensuring that cover bands have regular gigs. Many such bands play in Vazquez’s “The Cavern Club,” a bar next to the museum named after the Liverpool nightclub where the band got its start. Each year, Vazquez organizes a “Beatle Week,” in which cover bands from around Latin America compete to be named the best imitators. □

‘Green Hornet’ stings box office with \$34M debut

LOS ANGELES – “The Green Hornet” is buzzing away with the top spot at the weekend box office.

The tongue in cheek superhero film starring Seth Rogen as a playboy turned crimefighter earned \$34 million during its opening weekend, according to studio estimates released Sunday. Sony Screen Gems’ “Green Hornet,” which was directed by indie auteur Michel Gondry, shot down Paramount’s “True Grit,” the Western that reigned supreme the previous weekend.

“As we moved down the road, it got a lot of love, the love that it deserved,” said Rory Bruer, Sony’s president of worldwide distribution. “I think everything worked really well for the film: the timing, the release date, the marketing, and, most importantly, the film itself. It all gelled in a terrific way. We’re very pleased with the results.”

The weekend’s other major new release, Universal’s “The Dilemma,” opened in the No. 2 spot. The comedy starring Vince Vaughn and Kevin James as partners at an automobile design firm earned \$17.4 million. Despite driving away with the top two spots at the box office, Hollywood’s first major new releases of the year didn’t help to rev up ticket sales.

Hollywood’s overall revenues this weekend continued the slump that’s persisted through the fall and holiday season. Ticket sales this weekend totaled \$115.2 million, down 25 percent compared to the same period last year, when the sci-fi epic “Avatar” continued to dominate at the box office with \$42.7 million. Attendance was also down by 27 percent.

Potential Oscar contenders “True Grit,” “The King’s Speech” and “Black Swan” respectively followed behind “Green Hornet” and “The Dilemma.” Both the royal saga “King’s Speech” and ballet thriller “Black Swan” are up for several awards, including best drama motion picture and best supporting actress, at Sunday’s 68th annual Golden Globes ceremony.

“I think the lack of an ‘Avatar’ this season has given an opportunity to films like ‘True Grit,’ ‘King’s Speech’ and ‘Black Swan’ to draw audiences to the theater who are looking for something that’s getting great reviews and who are maybe wanting to watch the Oscars or the Golden Globes with an informed mind,” said Hollywood.com analyst Paul Dergarabedian.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Final figures will be released Tuesday. □

BUSINESS Aruba TODAY

Investors crave more strong bank results

NEW YORK U.S. bank stocks are flying high, and this week's earnings could give investors more reason to be optimistic about the sector. Strong results from JPMorgan Chase & Co (JPM.N) on Friday bolstered expectations for top U.S. banks, many of which are due to report in the coming week, including Citigroup (C.N) and Goldman Sachs (GS.N).

Financials have been among market leaders in the recent rally, with the Standard & Poor's 500 (.SPX) posting its seventh straight week of gains on Friday.

While the earnings outlook is keeping alive hopes that stocks have more room to run higher, the rise in bank shares has pushed sector indexes to near resistance levels, which could signal a rest stop for the shares in this holiday-shortened week.

The market will be closed Monday in observance of Martin Luther King Jr Day.

JPMorgan Chase on Friday reported profit and revenue that were stronger than analysts had expected, and the CEO said the bank could start to increase its dividend once regulators give the go-ahead,

likely at the end of March. Analysts said the news bodes well for other financials, most of which are due to report results this week.

"Financials could very easily be one of the real darlings of this particular earnings cycle," said Burt White, managing director and chief investment officer of LPL Financial in Boston.

Financials are projected to have by far the highest growth rate in earnings for the fourth quarter, largely because of easy year-ago comparisons, according to Thomson Reuters data.



Overall, S&P 500 earnings are expected to have increased 32 percent from a year ago, the data showed.

Besides the banks, economic bellwether General Electric (GE.N) as well as marquee tech names Apple (AAPL.O), Google (GOOG.O) and eBay (EBAY.O) are due to report.

DREAMING OF BANK DIVIDENDS

Investors have been keen for news on when bank dividends will be reinstated, and when it happens, it's going to mean more investment in financials, White said.

"Once they start (paying dividends) you're going to see an enormous amount of buying from yield starved investors, as well as funds and ETFs (exchange traded funds) that really are going to have

to relook at the landscape and put financials back in there," he said.

Among other top banks reporting this week are Morgan Stanley (MS.N), Bank of America (BAC.N) and Wells Fargo & Co (WFC.N). The sector is benefiting from a steepening bond yield curve, which lets banks make more money on loans; a pickup in merger and acquisition activity, and a decline in loan losses, analysts said.

HEADED FOR RESISTANCE

To be sure, though, the recent sharp rise in the sector could make it tougher for those shares to keep rallying.

The KBW Bank index BKX, trading at 54.70, is up 18 percent since the end of September. □

Widow, 85, missed last house payment; fights fees

PHILADELPHIA An elderly New Jersey widow billed \$5,800 after missing the final payment on her 30 year mortgage can pursue her lawsuit against the debt collectors, a U.S. appeals court ruled.

Lawyers for Dorothy Rhue Allen call the fees charged by two banks and a law firm "unfair or unconscionable" and say they violate state and federal consumer protection laws.

Allen, now 85, had borrowed \$40,000 to buy the Deptford, N.J., home in 1976. She failed to make the final \$432 payment in 2006 because she was in the hospital, her lawyer said.

"She's just a wonderful little old lady that got sick," lawyer Lewis Adler told The Associated Press on Friday.

Lenders are under scrutiny in New Jersey and across the country for the way they handled foreclosures during the recent real estate bust. Six lenders none involved in Allen's case have been summoned before the New Jersey Supreme Court to fight for the right to stay in the foreclosure business.



The alleged systemic abuses include so-called "robo-signing," in which employees signed hundreds of documents without checking them for accuracy.

In Allen's case, LaSalle Bank and Cenlar Federal Savings Bank, both of Trenton, N.J., filed court foreclosure papers in 2007. Adler's firm asked how much it would take to resolve the problem. The banks, along with a law firm, outlined \$5,797 in charges, including nearly \$2,400 in legal fees.

According to Allen's lawsuit, those charges are far higher than allowed under federal and state laws, including

the Federal Debt Collection Practices Act.

For example, court rules limit attorney fees to \$15, not the \$910 charged; document searches to \$75, not \$335; and process serving to \$175, not \$475, the suit said.

"The lenders are sloppy and aggressive, trying to collect every penny," Adler said.

Chad A. Schiefelbein, a lawyer for the defendant banks, declined to comment. LaSalle Bank is now part of Bank of America.

A lawyer representing Fein, Such, Kahn and Shepard, the New Jersey law firm named in the suit, did not immediately return a call for comment. □

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HEALTH

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FDA Limits Tylenol in Prescription Combination Products Due to Liver Damage

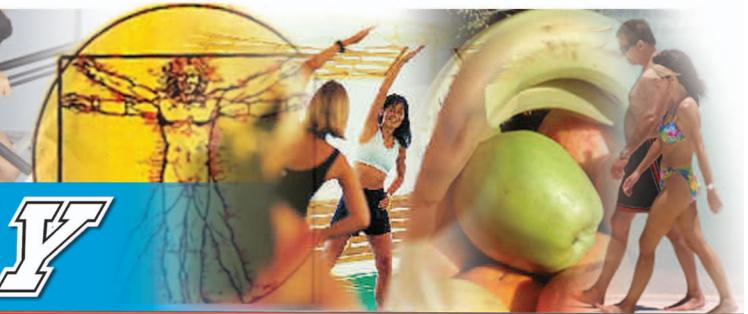
The FDA announced it is restricting the amount of Tylenol (acetaminophen) allowed in combination prescription drugs to 325 mgs. The move is prompted by warnings that acetaminophen can cause liver damage. OTC products are not affected. The FDA has set 325 mg per capsule or tablet as the safe level for prescription combination products. The FDA is causing labels to be placed on combination prescription pain relievers, warning of liver damage

caused from high levels of acetaminophen.

"Acetaminophen, also called APAP, is a drug that relieves pain and fever and can be found in both prescription and over the counter (OTC) products. It is combined in many prescription products with other ingredients, usually opioids such as codeine (Tylenol with Codeine), oxycodone (Percocet), and hydrocodone (Vicodin)," the FDA said in a release.

Health problems and liver damage concerns occur

because users tend to forget that these prescription combinations have acetaminophen in them. When they take an over the counter Tylenol product on top of acetaminophen prescription products the amount of Tylenol they are consuming is dangerously high. This can be a problem especially when people taking prescription pain relievers routinely, get a cold or some acute condition which they treat over the counter with Tylenol. I saw how easily this can happen



when caring for an aging relative. She takes Percocet for arthritis. She completely forgot when she had injured her back, that she was already getting large doses of Tylenol. The extra Tylenol creates more problems when user drink alcohol and take it. Prescription acetaminophen based pain reliever users should note. This is not a product recall. You may continue using your Percocet, Vicodin or Tylenol with Codeine as directed. This changes will go into affect with new products. New 325

mg. strength products will also be phased in over a period of three years, to prevent concern of a shortage. Acetaminophen is a common ingredient in over the counter headache remedies, pain relievers, arthritis medications and cold and sinus products. Over the counter products are not affected by the changes. If you are taking a prescription pain reliever be aware than 4,000 is the maximum amount of Tylenol you should take daily. Be sure to add in all sources of acetaminophen in your total.□

Gasoline: a child's drug of choice in Angola



LUANDA – An intoxicated boy shuffles along a teeming street in Luanda casually gulping vapours from a plastic bottle that contains gasoline, children's drug of choice in Africa's top oil-producing country.

Earth's "black gold" has fast-tracked Angola from the ravages of war to the heights of an emerging regional economy but in this capital city its main derivative has become a gateway drug that brings misery to poor communities.

Easy access to gasoline, typically sold from homes in lemonade bottles, has given rise to substance abuse -- with addicts as young as 10-years-old, in a country where rehabilitation resources are scarce.

Users are mainly homeless children and delinquents, whose families bore the brunt of Angola's nearly three-decade civil war which ended in 2002. "I started to take gasoline two months ago, I take it to make me feel happy," slurred 11-year-old Bentinho, as a stoned barefoot friend in tattered clothes chimed in, saying he liked the drug because it was easy to find. A red rash around the mouth and sunken red eyes are tell tale signs of gasoline users. Long term use risks brain damage, according to medical reports.

The country's Association Against Drugs Abuse estimates that around 15 percent of juvenile drug users are abusing gasoline, before advancing to crack cocaine

and other hard drugs. As a typical sign of the struggle to combat the menace, however, the forum does not have funds to offer rehabilitation programmes and is confined to running awareness campaigns around the city to counter abuse. The abuse of gasoline first emerged in the early 1990's when Angola was impoverished, but an influx of workers attracted to Luanda by the oil boom has seen the number of users soar, drug experts say.

Young addicts who can't get help often stay on the drug for years until they finally outgrow the habit, but only after severely damaging their health.

Stoned children gather in groups along the dirt-strewn streets of Luanda, scavenging in wastebaskets or washing cars to get money for their next fix, selling at 100 kwanzas (almost one US dollar) for a 500 millilitre (16 ounces) bottle.

A 2009 UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) annual report says more than half of Angola's 18.5 million population are children under the age of 18, of whom 43,000 remain separated from their families.□

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Más de 600 mueren por lluvias Brasil

NOVA FRIBURGO, Brasil (Reuters) - Las lluvias que devastaron una región montañosa de Rio de Janeiro han dejado al menos 626 muertos, dijo el domingo la agencia de Defensa Civil de Brasil, mientras se esperan más tormentas y posibles brotes de enfermedades que socavarán las operaciones de rescate.

Cerca de cinco días después de que las lluvias desataran inundaciones y grandes deslaves en uno de los peores desastres naturales vistos en Brasil, la cifra de muertos sigue creciendo fuertemente mientras los socorristas llegan a más áreas y excavan buscando cuerpos enterrados por los ríos de lodo.

Imágenes de televisión mostraron a socorristas buscando personas bajo túmulos de escombros, una tarea difícil a causa de las nuevas lluvias del sábado y los pronósticos de más precipitaciones el domingo.

El Gobierno dispuso 586 efectivos militares para

operaciones de rescates, 8.000 canastas de comida y 7 toneladas de medicinas y otros suministros, dijo en un comunicado. El periódico O Globo reportó que el Ejército había ayudado con el rescate de 110 familias en áreas aisladas en Teresópolis, donde 263 personas murieron, pero las víctimas reclaman cada vez más ante lo que perciben como una falta de ayuda gubernamental para distribuir bienes básicos y encontrar cuerpos.

Aunque las donaciones de alimentos, agua y comida llegan de otras partes del país, muchas personas en zonas remotas carecían de suministros básicos.

“El agua comenzó a cubrir las escaleras y colocamos algunas cosas sobre las otras, pero era imposible (salvar algo) ante el poder del agua. Todo colapsó y sólo pudimos salvarnos nosotros”, dijo María de Lourdes, desempleado de 49 años. “Todo lo que tenía lo perdí”, añadió.

La extensión de los daños

representan un desafío para Dilma Rousseff, la nueva presidenta de Brasil, y expuso grandes fallas en la planificación para emergencias y prevención de desastres en un país que aspira a obtener el estatus de nación desarrollada en los próximos años. Rousseff visitó la región el jueves y prometió un rápido esfuerzo de socorro, pero aún debe enfocarse en algunas de las áreas más afectadas. La molestia de los sobrevivientes hasta el momento se ha dirigido principalmente al Estado y las autoridades locales.

El Gobierno federal destinó 780 millones de reales (463,5 millones de dólares) en ayuda de emergencia y Rousseff declaró tres días de duelo.

Autoridades sanitarias estatales advirtieron a la población sobre las enfermedades que podrían contraerse a través del agua de lluvia contaminada. La agencia de Defensa Civil también distribuyó vacunas contra el tétanos y la difteria, según su sitio electrónico. (1 dólar = 1,683 reales) □



Vista aérea del daño provocado por unas fuertes lluvias en Nova Friburgo, Brasil, ene 12 2011. Deslizamientos de tierra e inundaciones devastaron localidades de un área montañosa cerca de Río de Janeiro y causaron la muerte de decenas de personas, lo que elevó el miércoles la cifra de fallecidos por intensas lluvias en el sur de Brasil a al menos 257. REUTERS/Bruno Domingos

Toledo toma delantera en Perú

LIMA (Reuters) - El ex presidente Alejandro Toledo tomó la posta en la carrera hacia las elecciones presidenciales de este año en Perú, seguido por la hija del ex mandatario Alberto Fujimori, la congresista Keiko Fujimori, mostró el domingo un sondeo de la principal encuestadora del país.

Toledo, quien gobernó a Perú entre el 2001 y 2006, lideró con un 27 por ciento el sondeo de intención de voto realizado por la firma Ipsos Apoyo a nivel nacional rural-urbano y publicado por el diario El Comercio.

Recientes encuestas mostraron que Toledo tendría asegurado un lugar en la prevista segunda vuelta de las elecciones presidenciales, que se anticipan como una de las más ajustadas de la historia del país.

En segundo lugar del sondeo de Ipsos Apoyo arribó la legisladora conservadora Keiko Fujimori, con un 22 por ciento de las preferencias, seguida de cerca por el ex alcalde capitalino, el pragmático Luis Castañeda, con un 19 por ciento. La anterior encuesta de Ipsos Apoyo no incluyó la intención de voto rural, por lo que no se brindan cifras comparativas.

Sin embargo, su sondeo de diciembre -realizado a nivel nacional urbano- mostró una foto diferente: Toledo y Castañeda empatados en primer lugar con un 23 por ciento, Fujimori en segundo lugar con un 20 por ciento y el líder nacionalista Ollanta Humala en tercero con un 11 por ciento. □

Oposición Venezuela acepta invitación Chávez a diálogo

CARACAS (Reuters) - La oposición venezolana aceptó el domingo la invitación a un diálogo nacional que le hizo el presidente Hugo Chávez, pero mostró recelo debido a que iniciativas similares fracasaron en el pasado. Chávez se mostró, el sábado durante su rendición de cuentas anual, conciliador con la oposición, que volvía a la Asamblea Nacional tras cinco años de ausencia, y pidió “no perder esta nueva oportunidad”.

La nueva Asamblea, de 165 miembros, tiene a 98 diputados afines al líder izquierdista, 65 opositores y dos que no pertenecen a ninguno de los dos bandos, lo que no le permite pasar leyes fácilmente como sucedió con el anterior parlamento que le otorgó plenos poderes en diciembre. Desde el 5 de enero que se instaló la Asamblea se han dado una serie de enfrentamientos y acusaciones entre la oposición y el oficialismo, ante lo cual Chávez invitó a las dos partes a sembrar “la semilla del diálogo, de la concordia”.

Su invitación fue recibida con un temeroso optimismo de la oposición, que destaca que no es la primera vez que el líder de la nación petrolera llama al diálogo, iniciativa que no llega a concretarse en un país ampliamente polarizado entre los que siguen y no a Chávez. “El diálogo no puede quedarse en palabras (...) tenemos a un Presidente que está 364 días del año dándole guamazos (golpes) a los medios, iglesias, ONG, otros países, peleando con todo el mundo y en la presentación de su balance nos dice por un día que quiere diálogo”, dijo Julio Borges diputado por el opositor Primero Justicia.

“Le tomamos la palabra al Presidente y vamos a recordarle todos los días ese llamado al diálogo, que no se quede en habladera, que se tenga una agenda completa”, añadió.

Como señal de buena voluntad, Chávez prometió el sábado devolver en mayo una ley que le permitía gobernar mediante decretos hasta junio del 2012, pocos meses antes de las elecciones presidenciales. □

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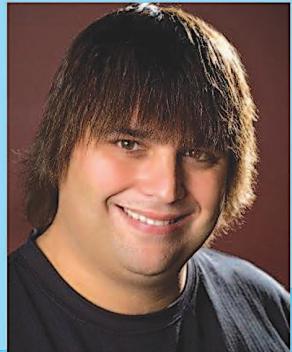
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